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EAST KENT EDITION

Issue no 497

Education experts cast doubt over still 'failing' academies

Exclusive by Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SERIOUS doubt has been cast over the future of the academy system as evidence reveals it has had little or no impact on the county's struggling schools.

In the most worrying cases, 'failing' schools which were turned into academies under the Labour government are continuing to underachieve, with two highlighted as among the worst performing in the country.

Honorary secretary of the Kent division of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) John Walder said the "buzz" surrounding academies simply covered up underlying problems.

"There is no evidence that just by becoming an academy schools will improve," he said.

"They may benefit from more money and new buildings, but while they are

living off the buzz the problems still remain. Schools that are on the up and become academies continue to go up, and schools that are down and become academies stay down.

"It makes no difference."

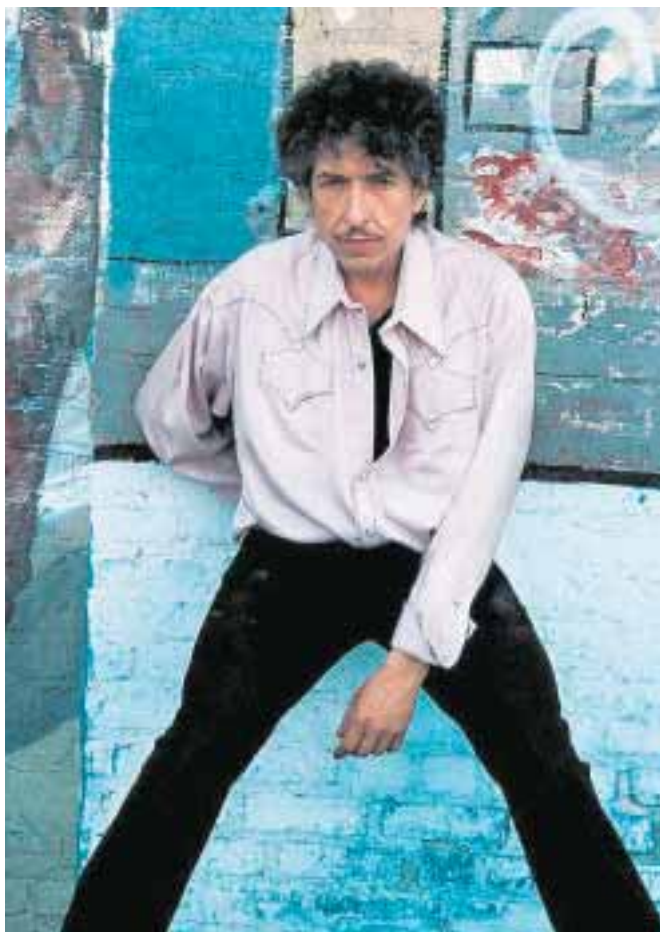
Schools that become academies are free of local authority control and have access to more funding.

But GCSE figures for the past three years show little improvements in academies in Kent and Medway, with a handful failing to meet the Government target of 35 per cent of pupils achieving five good GCSEs including English and maths.

Archers Court Maths and Computing College became Dover Christ Church Academy in September, 2010, but it has remained below the target at 28 per cent for the past two years.

Medway Community College and Chatham South School merged to

Continued on page 2



BOB BACK ON THE HOP FOR MUSIC FESTIVAL

SECOND COMING: Rock legend Bob Dylan will play again at Hop Farm – **SEE INSIDE**

TRANSPORT

M20 Olympic runway plans

A SECRET meeting is being held this morning to discuss plans by London Mayor Boris Johnson to close a section of the M20 during the Olympics – so it can be used as a runway.

Planes would land on the tarmac and athletes and VIPs would be taken to the Olympic stadium by car. **PAGE 2**

ECONOMY

Pasty tax leads to chip wars

UNDER-FIRE chancellor George Osborne could have inadvertently sparked a chip war in Kent with his controversial 'pasty tax'. The new VAT rules mean it could make sense for bakers to start selling chips along with hot pasties, putting them in competition with fish and chip shops. **PAGE 5**

SPORT

BTCC kicking off at Brands

MOTORSPORT fans will be chomping at the bit this weekend as the British Touring Car Championship kicks off at Brands Hatch, ushering in a hectic season for petrol-heads. Kent's own Motorbase Performance team will be competing under a new name – Redstone Racing. **PAGE 75**

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TELEVISION



SHOCK AND SNORE: 20-year-old Maria O'Connor fell foul of Lord Sugar, who fired her from her bid to become The Apprentice

I knew Lord Sugar would fire me says 'shouty' Apprentice star, Maria

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SELF-CONFESSED maneater Maria O'Connor failed to make Lord Sugar fall in love with her on The Apprentice – and got herself fired.

Before the series started, she boasted about being able to wrap the grumpy boss, and pretty much any other man, around her little finger before simply ditching them after getting what she wanted.

But the 20-year-old owner of Greek restaurant Elizavet, in Sandwich, was unceremoniously booted off the show on Wednesday night.

Before she became the second in the series to be fired by Lord Sugar, his sidekick Nick Hewer said: "She is just a bit shouty, I think. She is a very noisy young woman."

And Lord Sugar said: "It looks like she just wants to row. She looks a fiery person." And Karen Brady said: "Maria has got lots of energy, but she just doesn't know how to channel it."

Before she was fired, Maria was told by her team leader that she didn't pull her weight on the task to create a household gadget, despite another boast in the show that she will have five Kent restaurants by the time she's 25.

Her card may well have been marked after she fell asleep during a car ride as her team discussed whether to go with a 'tap cosy' or a child's bath splash protector. They went with the bath protector, and failed miserably against the men's food waste compactor.

And she knows why their product didn't win – she told KoS: "It was s**t."

Maria admits she is outspoken, and she was arrested at the age of 17 along with her then-boyfriend, and released without charge.

Of her time at Mortimers restaurant in her home town of Herne Bay, she hit back at claims she gave elderly diners heart attacks because her dress style.

She said: "God knows what they are saying there. I was in a black shirt and trousers, I didn't think that would give people a heart attack."

And of taking a 20-second snooze in the car, she blamed fellow contestant Jane McEvoy for doing her hair at 4am after Maria got to bed after midnight.

She said: "I wasn't sleeping. She was stomping about at 4am. I think it was one of her tactics."

The restaurateur believes she was hung out to dry by her team because she didn't fit the typical businesswoman mould.

Maria said: "I stood out from the others and set myself up to fall there. But really, what does it matter? I knew I wouldn't win, but I thought I would give it a go and if I won, I won. When I entered it, I did it on a whim. But it was amazing. I enjoyed every moment."

To get on, she had to undergo about 10 interviews after filling out an online application.

Maria said: "They don't do it on looks, and there is not a screen test, it's all done on your character. Even the interviews were enjoyable."

"I would recommend everyone to have a go. It is an experience of a lifetime. I have made loads of friends, and it can expand your business contacts."

"It's really beneficial for running a business."

The show was filmed last year, and she knows

who the finalists are, but admits she is amazed at some of those who made it through. Maria said: "I was surprised."

And she quickly moved to deny she is in a relationship with anyone on the show, especially Duane Bryan.

On her restaurant, which is taken from a family named handed down through the generations, and is Maria's middle name, she said: "I worked hard. It's all my own money. No loans either. I just worked really hard rather than going out and getting drunk and I saved my money."

■ Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yoursandwich.co.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Hosepipe ban to start

WATER chiefs are reminding people that Kent's hosepipe ban comes into force on Thursday, April 5. The hosepipe ban includes watering a garden or plants; cleaning a car or boat; filling a swimming or paddling pool; filling a pond or ornamental fountain; cleaning walls or windows of a home; and cleaning paths or patios. A spokesman for Veolia Water, one of Kent's suppliers, said: "We have to carefully manage the water we have to see us through the summer months."

➔ Police union strike vote

THE Police Federation is to ballot its members on industrial rights, in response to proposals to remove officers' protections, including a 'no redundancy' deal. Kent Police Federation chairman Ian Pointon said: "This government has deliberately steered themselves onto a collision course with police officers. Only they know their motivation for that. Officers believe these attacks on their protections go far beyond 'everyone being in this together'."

➔ Sheep virus spreads

KENT still has the country's highest number of outbreaks of Schmallenberg virus, which causes lambs to be stillborn or badly deformed. Of 223 farms hit across the country, Kent has 37 sheep farms with infections, and four cattle farms. The disease arrived in infected midges that travelled across the Channel from Europe. A vaccine against the disease may be up to two years away.

DEATH

Controversial amusement park boss Jimmy Godden passes away

ONE of Kent's most high-profile businessmen – famous for his seafront amusements empire – lost his battle with cancer this week.

Jimmy Godden passed away at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London on Tuesday.

He had been receiving treatment for cancer for two years.

His family told KoS they would be releasing a statement at an appropriate time.

Mr Godden, who was born in Folkestone, was most well known for his amusements businesses, including the Dreamland fun park in Margate, which he bought off the Bembom family in 1996.

The park boasted the popular Grade II* Scenic Railway ride.

Mr Godden also operated Ramsgate Pleasure

Park, which was on the site of former Ramsgate Harbour railway station, Rotunda theme park on Folkestone seafront in the town where he was born, and an amusement park in Dymchurch.

His wide portfolio of properties and investments included JG's amusement arcades in Thanet and Dover.

In 2003, Mr Godden announced Dreamland would close and the land to become a retail and commercial site.

But after opposition plans were put forward to change it into a heritage theme park. Proposals are currently under inquiry.

Mr Godden became a controversial figure after closing his amusement parks for redevelopment, including Rotunda and the Ramsgate Pleasure Park.

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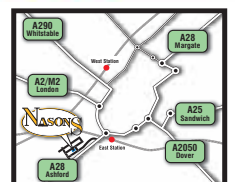
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ECONOMY

High streets could feel the heat as businesses battle over 'pasty tax'

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

CONTROVERSIAL plans to put VAT on hot pies and pasties could spark a new hot food war on the high street, according to the boss of one of Kent's biggest independent food retailers.

Andrew Rook of JC Rook and Sons, which has fresh meat outlets across the county, believes it could see butchers and bakers go head-to-head with traditional fish and chip shops in a bid to make up money lost from customers put off by the price hikes.

At present, VAT does not apply to a pie that has been baked on the premises and sold to customers as it is cooling down.

However, if it is heated up by the shop to be sold to the hungry customer, VAT does have to be applied.

Chancellor George Osborne is looking to close what is seen as a loophole in the legislation by making any food product sold above the ambient temperature of the store slapped with VAT.

It has made headlines this week as the so-called 'pasty tax'.

It is designed to stop the likes of Greggs and the major supermarkets selling what is essentially take-away food but without the 20 per cent added VAT that would be payable.

Mr Rook, who has 16 outlets including stores in Maidstone, Broadstairs, Whitstable, Hythe, Sittingbourne and Tunbridge Wells, said: "In the

past we have not offered chips because we did not want to be in the VAT bracket.

"But what this change will do is move a lot of the goalposts. In the short term we may expect some loss of trade as prices will rise, but we are going to look at other things we can do to counter its impact."

And that could include offering chips alongside the shops' pasties and pies.

The new regulations, outlined in last week's Budget, will come into force on October 1.

Mr Rook added: "It is a bit hard to tell how it will affect us until it comes in. Overall I think it will mean that we can do other things to complement what we offer the customer."

The legislation has been criticised for hitting the pockets of already hard-pressed consumers.

It has also been said that it will be impossible to enforce the tax because of confusion on how it is applied.

Mr Rook said: "At what point do you call something a hot pie or just a pie that is still warm. It is all very ambiguous at the moment and that why the bill will have to go through Parliament to try and iron out these issues."

Simon Reynolds from the bakers AE Barrow and Sons in Sittingbourne added: "This is something that has happened for a long time in the industry.

"At the moment if we heat a pasty up for a customer we have to ring it through the till with the VAT added, if it is cold we do not."



A PASTY?: Chancellor George Osborne

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Pond deaths drug ban

A LEGAL high linked to the death of two men from Canterbury is the first drug to be banned under new legislation. Methoxetamine, also known as MXE, has been described as a designer drug used on the dance scene. It will be made illegal under a Temporary Class Drug Order while the Home Office decides if it should be permanently controlled. Buskers Hugo Wenn, 17, and Daniel Lloyd, 25, drowned in Reed Pond in Canterbury in January. Both taken MXE before they died.

➔ Dinner tribute to chef

JANET Street-Porter will be guest of honour at a fund-raising tribute dinner for Jonny Dunhill, owner of Ramsgate's Eddie Gilbert's restaurant and wet fish shop, who died in February, aged 49. The six-course dinner, at Thanet College's Bay View Restaurant in Broadstairs, is on Monday, May 28. Tickets cost £30. The dinner will raise funds for Pilgrims Hospice in Margate, and to create an annual bursary scheme for students of Kent's catering colleges.

➔ Pupils get the bird

STUDENTS across Kent have been monitoring the attendance of feathered visitors to their schools in the RSPB's Big Schools Birdwatch survey. The blackbird came top of the class, with an average of 5.6 birds being accounted for in 89.2 per cent of schools. The starling came in a close second, with an average of 4.58 birds per school being registered in 53 per cent of schools. The blackheaded gull was the third.

TRANSPORT

Towers closure congestion 'not as bad as we feared' says road chief

ROAD managers in Canterbury say they are keeping their fingers crossed after the closure of the Westgate Towers, which started on Monday.

The new traffic scheme is part of a year's trial to see if traffic can be permanently stopped from going through the historic building and improve the air quality in the St Dunstan's area.

Closing the Westgate Towers to traffic means that vehicles approaching the city from Whitstable will be redirected via Canterbury West station to the town's ring road.

Executive member for transportation Cllr Peter Vickery-Jones said: "We did face the first morning with tremendous trepidation as frankly we had no idea how it would go. You can forecast things as much as you like.

"It was not as bad as I had feared; in the St Dunstan's area the traffic was no more than you would have expected on a normal day, but it may have been people were keeping away."

Along with the closure of the 14th century defensive gateway to the city a number of surrounding roads have been closed. A new traffic light system allows buses and taxis to drive alongside the towers, but this route is closed to general traffic.

On the first morning the new road layout did seem to have some repercussions for drivers. Although rush-hour traffic seemed to keep moving as the day went on, traffic was reported to be tailing back further back along St Dunstan's Road.

Cllr Vickery-Jones said: "There may have been knock-on affects elsewhere. I understand coming out of Asda on Sturry Road was worse than



TRAFFIC FREE: Canterbury's Westgate Towers

normal but we hope that will settle down."

The council wants to protect the towers which were regularly damaged by large lorries and buses that squeezed through the ancient archway.

Cllr Vickery-Jones said: "The last thing we want to do is ruin people's lives, what we are trying to do is improve people's lives and in so doing it will protect the Westgate Towers.

"Canterbury cannot be ruled by the car. It is too vital and important for all of us for that to happen. People should be able to enjoy it properly as it should be."

The council will monitor traffic flow and air quality in the area for the next year. By the second day traffic was reported to be moving more freely.

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ANIMAL EXPORTS

Warning notices issued to lorries carrying live exports as RSPCA vows to get tough

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

THE RSPCA has sent inspectors to Ramsgate to monitor the export of live animals from the town's harbour.

It comes after the animal welfare charity's new chief executive, Gavin Grant, met with Thanet District Council.

The meeting also involved members of the group Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) along with local campaigners who have protested against the trade which began from the port nearly a year ago.

Chief Inspector Dermot Murphy said: "The RSPCA is against the long-distance transport of live animals for slaughter or further fattening, and we were at Ramsgate port, at the agreement of Thanet District Council and Animal Health, to ensure welfare rules are not being flouted.

"The RSPCA has been making sure the animals have access to water, that there are non-slip floors or bedding down, and that the calves and sheep are in a fit condition to travel. We have made it clear that if there are breaches of the rules we will take action."

Four lorries carrying around 1,800 sheep and 100 calves, arrived at the port on Wednesday.

They were greeted by protesters as they entered the harbour. The RSPCA inspectors assessed the welfare of the animals and examined the trucks.

Two hauliers were issued with RSPCA warning notices – one for having broken ventilation fans and another for mixing sheep, including some with horns, from different flocks in the same lorry. Government body Animal Health also issued similar notices.

A vet was also present to check the



MAKING A STAND: Animal rights protestors target lorries entering Ramsgate port

animals were in a fit state to travel.

Mr Murphy added: "We hoped the days of seeing lorry loads of calves and sheep being shipped to Europe where they can face long journeys and may be reared in conditions which would be illegal here, were long behind us.

"Sadly that is not the case, but while this trade continues the RSPCA will be at ports checking the welfare of the animals."

The RSPCA has said it has serious concerns about the suitability of the slow-moving boat, the Joline, which is being used to ship animals abroad as it can take up to six hours to make the crossing.

Mr Murphy added: "This is the first time the RSPCA has been involved in a port inspection for a number of years, so in a sense we are starting again.

"The whole operation went well. We have to be careful not to stress the animals anymore than they already are in the truck.

"We believe meat should be a carcass-only trade. We will look to make this a regular operation to see what we can do to make this trade as safe as possible."

According to Freedom of Information requests submitted by Compassion in World Farming, 9,000 calves went through Kent ports last year.

The NFU has said it will work with CIWF to find a long-term alternative to the calf trade, but it defends its members exporting animals.

NFU chief dairy adviser Robert Newbery said: "The free trade and movement of farm animals between EU member states is a legitimate and lawful activity which is inspected and subject to strict legislative controls focused on guaranteeing high standards of animal health and welfare – an issue which we take very seriously.

"The NFU supports these controls and has continuously argued for a high standard of enforcement across all EU member states."

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SEARCHING: RSPCA inspectors check out the lorries before their crossing

PETROL CRISIS

Fire crews' warning on storing fuel after minister sparks panic buying

FIREFIGHTERS have warned about the dangers of storing petrol after Cabinet Office minister Francis Maude advised drivers to store fuel in a jerrycan in their garage.

His advice sparked panic buying of fuel and came after Unite union drivers, who supply 90 per cent of UK forecourts, voted to strike.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) said while the industrial action will not have any effect on its frontline services, the public should be aware of the fire risks

around the storage of fuels.

KFRS head of community safety Stuart Skilton said: "We are reminding residents petrol is a hazard as it gives off a highly flammable vapour and must be handled with extreme care. It should be kept away from any means of ignition and people should never smoke around it.

"We strongly advise against bulk buying and storage of petrol and people need to be aware that there are strict regulations about how and where it is kept."

GAY RIGHTS

Campaigner Tatchell backs council's debate on same-sex marriage

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archcant.co.uk

LEADING gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell has backed a move by Thanet councillors to be the first town hall in England to support same-sex marriage.

A motion has been put forward by independent members Ian Driver and John Worrow to respond to a consultation document sent out by the Government. It will be debated in the council chamber on April 18.

The issue has created controversy amongst some opposition councillors who say it is a waste of public time and money.

Mr Tatchell said: "This is a trailblazing initiative. As far as I know Thanet is the first council in the country to propose such a motion and I hope other councils will follow its lead."

The proposed legislation, promoted by the minister for equality Lynn Featherstone and backed by Prime Minister David Cameron, would allow same-sex couples to marry in a register office or other civil ceremony. The new law would not apply to religious services.

Cllr Driver said: "The consultation document was sent out requesting lots of different groups to

make comments to the Government. One of those groups happens to be local authorities."

Thanet District Council has no powers when it comes to civil marriages which come under the remit of Kent County Council.

The motion has been described by some Conservative members in Thanet as gesture politics. Conservative Cllr Simon Moores says the issue has caused heated debate on his website.

He said: "There have been an unprecedented number of comments from people who feel the council should be concentrating on delivering services in these challenging times."

"We should be concentrating on things we can do to make things better for local people than debating matters that are more in the realm of church and state."

But Cllr Driver said: "In truth, the amount of time that will be spent on this debate will be about 30 minutes. Out of all the thousands of council hours spent on other things, it really is very little. This is a small proportion and a tiny price to pay for a matter of principle."

The councillor has set up a Facebook page 'Thanet Loves Equal Marriage' to get support for the motion.

He said: "A lot of people in the lesbian and gay



DIVIDED: Thanet councillors split over gay debate

community see civil partnerships as a halfway house. It is a matter of principle that lesbian and gay people can have a ceremony that is exactly the same as I had with my wife."

Canterbury MP Julian Brazier has described the proposal as a move that would damage a "treasured institution" and have unforeseen consequences.

He has argued that legalising gay marriage would inevitably lead to other forms of marriage, such as those under Sharia law, being introduced into the UK.

But Mr Tatchell said the issue applied to both straight and gay couples.

He said: "It is insulting and offensive to have a system of sexual segregation in law; where gay couples are banned from marriage and straight couples are banned from civil partnerships."

"No-one would accept the Government telling black people that they are banned from marriage and offering the civil partnerships instead."

■ You can read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourthanet.co.uk.

TRANSPORT

HS1 figures prediction was 'hugely optimistic'

A REPORT has revealed the number of international passengers using the HS1 Channel Tunnel high-speed rail line is two-thirds lower than expected.

The National Audit Office (NAO) said passenger numbers between 2007-11 were just two-thirds of the level forecast by the Department for Transport, and that predictions were "hugely optimistic".

The government department said it has now improved its forecast model.

The NAO said the Department for Transport was only now developing its plan to see whether the project was value for money.

TRIBUTE

Death of former Biggin Hill airport director

STAFF at Biggin Hill Airport have been mourning the death of Squadron Leader Jock Maitland, who was an RAF fighter pilot before becoming the first civilian director of the airport in 1959.

He was also the founder of the International Air Fair series that ran for 48 years.

Mr Maitland was 87 when he passed away peacefully at his retirement home in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire.

During his 15-year career in the RAF he saw action in the Korean war in the Middle East.

In 2007 he received an MBE for services to aviation.

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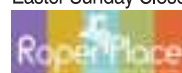
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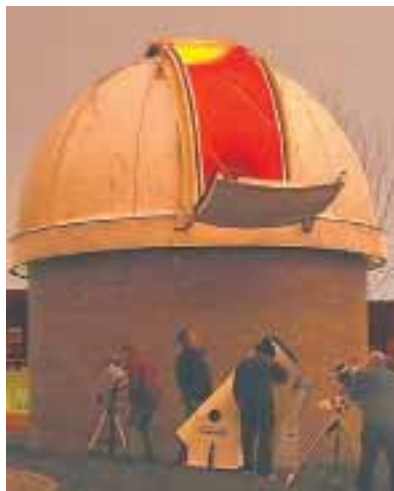


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HEAVEN-SENT: The new telescope will help the Mid-Kent Astronomical Society with their work and provide even more breathtaking images, like this one of Jupiter captured by Gavin Lacey

ASTRONOMY

Observatory's donation of top telescope leaves society all starry-eyed

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE heavens are about to come a little closer to Kent after a team of stargazers staged a major coup to obtain one of Britain's best telescopes.

The Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, has agreed to give one of its professional telescopes to the organisation.

The Mid-Kent Astronomical Society already had its head in the clouds after staging a series of astonishing displays of its equipment for the public to use when they appeared on the BBC's Stargazing Live programmes earlier this year.

Best loved on the evenings were the mountains on the Moon and awe-inspiring close-up views of Jupiter.

Now with the Edinburgh telescope on its way to the county, local stargazers will have an even better view of the sky at night.

Noel Clark, from the society said: "If people found the views through our other telescopes exciting, they will feel their brains being sucked into space by this baby."

The Grubb Parsons half-metre aperture telescope is one of the largest in amateur hands. It was originally built in 1967 to train students at Edinburgh University, but it is now upgrading and making its original equipment available.

Local haulier Matt Swain has even agreed to transport the huge piece of scientific equipment for free.

The donated telescope will be housed at the James Irwin Observatory in the grounds of Canterbury Academy and Adult Education Centre.

The society has a programme to refurbish the telescope, equip it with new instruments and use it for public observing, and to support science teachers delivering astronomy in local schools.

The society's plans include providing disabled

access by making live viewing possible in the ground floor warm-room, and providing access to observing sessions via the internet.

Mike Phillips, chairman of the Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, said: "We have big plans for this telescope to provide views of our universe to school groups and all who are interested.

"We look forward to introducing many more people to the wonders of the night sky."

He added: "Being awarded this incredible telescope is a real privilege. Our members' many years of experience and joy at observing the night sky can be built on, and research enhanced. It will harness enthusiasm as well as providing a much-needed resource for educational establishments and societies interested in astronomy across Kent."

The telescope presently sits on top of the Royal Observatory building in Edinburgh.

To remove it, the two-tonne dome will be lifted and a crane will lower it down in one piece.

The observatory received more than a dozen applications from Europe and America for the equipment, but the one from Kent stood out, resulting in a stunned

Mr Phillips receiving a telephone call to say the bid had been successful.

Mark Collins, of the UK Astronomy Technology Centre at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh, will oversee the removal.

He said: "The Kent society made an excellent case for acquiring the telescope and we are glad that it will continue to give service to UK astronomers for many years to come."

Anyone wishing to look at the stars, or who is interested in the telescope can contact the group through its website at www.midkentastro.org.uk.

■ Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

BUSINESS

Game over as retailer hits off button for good

A NUMBER of Kent stores of video game retailer Game are on the closure list after the firm fell into administration this week. Administrators said 277 of its 609 Game or Gamestation stores would close immediately, with the loss of more than 2,000 jobs nationwide. In Kent they include outlets in Ashford's County Square, Bluewater, Bromley High Street, Canterbury High Street, Maidstone's Chequers and Ramsgate High Street.

FIRE

Man suffers burns after chip pan blaze

A MAN from Deal had to be treated for burns and smoke inhalation after he attempted to put out a fire caused by a chip pan. Fire crews were called to the blaze in Canute Road at around 6.40pm on Monday and brought the man to safety. Crew manager Paul Evans said: "After phoning 999, he mistakenly tried to tackle the fire himself, before evacuating the property but suffered minor burns to his hands in the process."

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NATURE

Exotic beetle outbreak a threat to native trees

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TREES across Britain could be seriously affected by an invasion in Kent of the dreaded Asian longhorn beetle.

The bug is not naturally found in the UK and experts believe it may have arrived from Asia by hitching a lift on cargo containers.

The outbreak in the Paddock Wood area is a serious concern. The beetles feed from the inside of plants and trees leaving them either dead or dying within a single season. And they spread fast.

The discovery has been announced by the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

It is the first time the pest has been found in the UK and it is being treated extremely seriously.

Fera and the Forestry Commission is now taking urgent steps to eradicate them before they spread. Several larvae of the beetle have been found during a routine survey by the Forestry Commission at a site in the Paddock Wood area.

Scientists from Forest Research had been monitoring an area around the site where an adult beetle had been found in 2009, and this is the first evidence of infestation.

It is thought the beetles originated from wood packaging used to import stone from China at a neighbouring industrial site.

Martin Ward, head of plant health policy at Fera, said: "Our plant health inspectors and the Forestry Commission are conducting a survey to determine the extent of this outbreak.

"In the meantime we would urge members of the public, to be on the alert for the beetle and let us know if they find anything."

Spotting them is easy. Adult beetles are large at 20-40 mm long, and shiny black with variable white markings. Their antenna is particularly distinctive, being much longer than their bodies at twice the body length. They are black with white and light blue bands.

The thing to look out for are the circular adult exit holes which are around 10mm in diameter and are generally found in the main trunk and branches, but that is usually too late for that tree as the damage internally has been done.

A spokesman for Fera told KoS: "The last thing we want to be doing is chopping down vast swathes of Kent woodland."

The adult beetles usually emerge from these exit holes between May and October.

Anyone who thinks they have spotted an Asian longhorn beetle or evidence of its presence can contact the Fera Plant Health Helpline 0844 2480071 or email planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk. They ask any beetle be caught and placed in a secure container for an inspector to collect.

They are not harmful to humans, but should be handled with care as they can nip.



DEADLY TO WOODLAND: The Asian longhorn beetle feeds from the inside of trees, leaving them either dead or dying within a single season

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News

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ENVIRONMENT

Councils urged have 'local plan' or lose power to say no to developers

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

REVISED planning rules published this week after a year of controversy have kick-started a frantic push to make sure every council has a 'local plan' in place.

That's because of fears that those without one may forgo any say over what developments can go ahead in their area.

While conservationists welcomed the newly published National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – which promotes sustainable development and construction on brownfield sites – they admitted concerns over the 12-month transition period given to councils to draw up a local plan.

This is a document created by councils setting out future growth, but also putting in place controls over potential developments.

Jamie Weir, spokesman for Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England, said Thanet and Canterbury had yet to complete the document.

"Both Thanet and Canterbury are going to really struggle to get a local plan in place by the time the 12 months is up, which could result in developments those areas do not want simply because they will not have the power to say no," he said.

"There are a number of areas within these districts that could be 'up for grabs' by developers which could result in undesirable development."

A Thanet council spokeswoman said the authority does have a local plan in place, but the council was reviewing planning policy.

"It is expected that new policy will be consulted on by the end of the year," she said.

A spokesman for Canterbury council said: "We are preparing a new local plan and within the transition period we should have completed consulta-

tion on a 'preferred option'. This means that weight can be given to the draft plan at that stage."

Initial fears about 'unprotected' areas of land – those without special designation including large parts of Romney Marsh and south Maidstone – were alleviated by the new planning rules.

Mr Weir said: "The Romney Marshes should not be up for grabs in the way that we had feared,

as the concerns we expressed that 'ordinary' countryside would not be protected have been allayed by the NPPF in its final form."

Mr Weir said controversial development plans such as Chilmington Green, which involves building a new town on countryside on the edge of the Kentish Weald, and Lodge Hill, plans for 5,000 homes on the Hoo Peninsula, would not



be changed by the NPPF and it would be down to both Ashford and Medway Councils to decide on whether they should go ahead.

The document – which condenses 1,300 pages to 59 – was announced by planning minister and MP for Tunbridge Wells Greg Clark. He stressed the local plan was the keystone of planning.



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News

TRANSPORT

Hauliers fear private finance roads could cost them dear

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FREIGHT companies have raised concerns over David Cameron's hopes of improving the road network with private funding.

They said while improvements were needed to tackle congestion, lorry drivers should not have to shoulder any additional costs.

It follows an announcement by the Prime Minister new major roads in Britain could be privatised, paving the way for a new generation of motorways funded by tolls. He said there needed to be innovative ways of funding to increase investment and reduce congestion.

"Road tolling is one option, but we are only considering this for new, not existing, capacity," he said.

"We need to look urgently at the options for getting large-scale private investment into the national roads network – from sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and other investors."



PLANS: New roads could cost

The Department for Transport and the Treasury are due to carry out a feasibility study of new ownership and financing models.

Bosses at the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association (FTA) said while they welcomed calls for an increase in investment, they warned it could discourage lorries from using certain roads.

FTA chief executive Theo de Pencier said road congestion was blighting the economy, but that additional costs should not be burdened on the lorry drivers and freight companies.

He said: "The freight industry will want to look at how these plans relate to existing

transport taxes such as fuel duty and vehicle excise duty and how any new pricing structures can be developed to ensure the new capacity is utilised in the most efficient and effective way.

"Given that road users already pay £41 billion a year in taxes, charges and tolls, then any new cost cannot be in addition to this and must be a substitution for fuel duty."

While business leaders welcome the move amid concerns over potential toll costs, green campaigners voiced fears over increased gridlock, where vehicles would avoid toll roads and cram onto local highways.

A Kent spokesman for Friends of the Earth said: "Building and widening roads to tackle congestion is a dead-end policy that will simply lead to more traffic, more pollution – and even more gridlocked roads."

"The Prime Minister should be promoting alternatives to driving and reduce our transport system's reliance on expensive overseas oil."

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News

ENVIRONMENT

Oddie goes Dodo to promote Earth Hour for eco-business

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NATURE lover Bill Oddie is still a goodie after jumping at the chance to support a small Kent environmental organisation.

And Britain's most famous birdwatcher also issued a broadside at those major charities he believes cream off more than they should for admin and salary costs.

The Whitstable-based business is called Don't Do the Dodo, and boss Anthony Cooper was amazed when he got Oddie on board to make a record about saving power.

Mr Cooper said: "Bill was delighted to help us out. He said he is angry with some charities that appear to take a fortune in administration costs rather than spend it where it's intended."

Don't Do the Dodo wanted to do something to help mark Earth Hour, which is on Saturday, March 31, when individuals and organisations are encouraged to turn off lights for an hour from 8.30pm.

Mr Cooper said: "I asked Bill if he would record this song called Turn It Off. It is a bit whacky, but really gets the message over that we need to start turning things off in the home to save power."

"It is our contribution toward Earth Hour and it puts some fun

into creating awareness for water conservation for the looming draught.

"Together with my wife Sheilah we are hoping to persuade people to download a free ringtone from the song as a show of unity for saving our resources and as a green talking point.

"Maybe if enough like it, there is a chance it could even go viral. Bill has agreed to be the voice of the dodo, which is a great boost."

Oddie said in the recording studio: "I wanted to support a small organisation like this because the money goes where they say it goes. It is not used up by all the back office nonsense."

"They are delivering a worthwhile message and it was great recording the song for them."

Mr Cooper said: "As a part of our marketing strategy, we will transparently donate 50 per cent of our profits to local environmental projects, with the final object of finding partners worldwide and repeating the same formula."

"The dodo remains in the zeitgeist as the icon for extinct creatures. The concept of Don't Do the Dodo is to establish a credible and transparent environmental edutainment brand, producing a new generation of environmentalists."

To hear the song visit <http://www.dontdododo.com/ddt-dodohtml/freebies.html>.

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News

TRANSPORT

College students get cheap bus travel – for £520 a year

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SIXTH formers and college students are to get subsidised bus travel – but it will cost £520 a year to buy a pass.

Kent County Council said this amounted to just £10 a week and was far cheaper than the actual cost of the travel card to the authority of £750, and the current travel expenses for 16 to 19-year-olds in education, which often costs as much as £900.

Schools and colleges are also able to subsidise the cost further for those eligible for bursary funding if they wish, although it is not yet known whether any are planning to do so.

The travel card will allow travel on buses across the county at all times, including holidays and weekends, and was given the green light by KCC cabinet members following a campaign calling for the Kent Freedom Pass – which serves children aged 11-16 for £100 a year – to be extended to 16 to 19-year-olds.

Should the scheme be included in the wider, statutory Kent Transport Policy, the cards will be available from September.

Kent Youth County Council member Paul Ayres said: "Having a card that could be used

evenings and weekends, as well as daytimes, will make a real difference.

"It just shows we are being listened to and I think it will encourage more young people to get involved – knowing that their views count."

KCC cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Mike Whiting, said the card met many of the aspirations of young people who petitioned the county council last year.

Thousands of people added their signatures to the list, prompting a debate on post-16 travel at KCC.

Cllr Whiting said some students could get the card for an even lower cost.

He said: "Schools and colleges can use the bursary money they now get direct from government, a replacement for Education Maintenance Allowances, to further subsidise the cost of the card. Guidance will be issued to schools and colleges on the level of bursary subsidy they will be expected to pay to low-earning families."

Kim Blacker, from Northfleet Technology College, which recently trialled the post-16 travel pilot scheme, said the opportunity made a huge difference for some students.

"One said it was 'life saving', providing him with ability to seek part-time employment further afield from where he lives," she said.



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News

REGENERATION

Towns hope to catch eye of shopping queen Portas

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

TOWNS around Kent are queueing up to be chosen as one of Mary Portas's pilot town centres.

The retail guru and star of TV's Mary Queen of Shops launched the scheme earlier this year which will see 12 towns around the UK chosen for the pilot scheme.

Each will receive a grant of around £100,000 to turn round their town centres based on the recommendations of her report to government into the state of our high streets, published last year.

So far towns in Kent considering putting bids forward include Ashford, Dover, Folkestone, Maidstone, Tonbridge and Sheerness.

Each town has created a 'Town Team' of traders, businesses and local politicians to help come up with suggestions to revive their towns.

Ashford was one of the first to put in an application. A fortnight ago a meeting was held with various stakeholders to help come up with suggestions that will make their bid stand out.

The meeting was opened by Ashford MP Damian Green who stressed the need to come up with innovative and unified proposals.

Council leader Cllr Peter Wood said: "It was incredibly encouraging to see so many local businesses not only sharing bright and bold ideas on how to improve the town centre, but also showing their wholehearted support for Ashford and its future."

"I believe the Portas Pilot bid will serve as a catalyst for positive change and with our traders and residents we have the commitment and vision to see it through."

Around 350 towns around the country are bidding to be chosen as pilots.

The county town of Maidstone has also thrown its hat into the ring.

Cabinet member for economic development and transport, Cllr Malcolm Greer, said: "We have invested a lot of money into our high street and this bid, if successful, would enhance our offering to the public and bring community spirit back to the town."

Town Teams had to formally submit their bids by Friday, March 30, and are also required to produce a video about their town and how it can benefit from being in the pilot.

Sheerness is making three main recommendations on improving its town centre, mainly based on the ideas put forward by Portas.

They include relocating the market into the centre of the town, using vacant shops to start new entrepreneurial businesses, and creating a centre for art and community groups to help establish a brand for the town.

Chairman of Sheerness' Town Team is Pete Giffen from the fashion shop O.S.O.U.

He said: "We hope these ideas will give us enough scope to demonstrate that we're looking at a scheme to benefit the whole town, our local community, traders, businesses and visitors. We are working to a very tight timescale to get the bid submitted so it's all hands on deck."

"In an age when high streets have to compete with large out-of-town retail parks and shopping on the internet, it is clear town centres are going to have to change."

Cllr Wood added: "The nature of high streets has changed. People don't go shopping in the old way they used to. They go for a day out."



HIGH HOPES: Ashford is just one of several Kent towns after Mary Portas funding



ACCIDENT

Crash pair fight for their lives

TWO people were left fighting for their lives after a rush hour smash on the A2.

The accident happened on Monday at 8.20am on the coastbound Adisham A2 slip-road, B2046 at Barham - known locally as the Adisham Road.

A white transit van and a black Hyundai Jetz were involved.

The driver of the van, a 52-year-old man, was taken to a London hospital.

His injuries were described as being life-threatening.

The driver of the car, a woman in her 30s from Folkestone, was also taken to a London hospital. Her injuries were said to be serious, but she was in a stable condition.

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News

ENVIRONMENT

It's such a waste – anger at closure of recycling centres

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

PLANS to close two recycling centres will lead to more cases of fly-tipping, say campaigners.

Kent County Council's cabinet has approved the closure of the recycling centre near the village of Hawkinge as part of a review of 19 recycling sites in the county.

A proposal to close the recycling centre at Richborough near Sandwich was discussed at a meeting of the full council on Thursday.

The closure plans have angered residents who say the council's consultation process was skewed in order to give County Hall waste managers the result they wanted.

Jeffery Loffman from Richborough Action Group said: "The consultation document has flawed data and the consultation itself has been flawed. There are so many residents in Sandwich who feel strongly that they don't want to see the centre closed and it feels like KCC is overriding them."

"Some of the figures in the consultation they have used are inaccurate. For example, in Sandwich they say 150 homes are affected. By that they may mean the 15-20 minute guideline to travel to a waste site, but the actual figure is much bigger than that."

The Richborough recycling centre is due to close by the summer of 2013. After that residents will have to travel to either Margate or Deal to get rid of their recyclable waste.

Mr Loffman said: "Margate is too far away and in Deal it could create real problems with queuing which will just put people off recycling. We already see incidents of fly-tipping in the area and we are worried it will get worse."

"We are not satisfied other options have been considered, such as reducing opening hours or reducing the types of material that are deposited."

Nearly 3,500 responses were made to KCC's countywide consultation on waste management which ended in February. Protect Kent says the questionnaire was badly publicised and questions that described centres targeted for closure as "uneconomic" would inevitably get the answer the council wanted from people not affected.

The county council says a new transfer recycling centre in Ashford will help deal with much of the waste in east Kent.

The Richborough campaigners have handed in a petition to County Hall with 1,300 signatures opposing the closure.

KCC says it is investing £18m in its recycling sites over the next three years and the closures are part of a rationalisation programme.

Cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, Cllr Bryan Sweetland, said: "This service review has been comprehensive and the consultation has contributed to my understanding of the public's view. I am particularly mindful of the concern regarding fly-tipping and KCC is committed to taking a robust approach against environmental crime."

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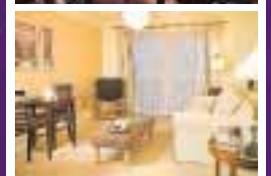


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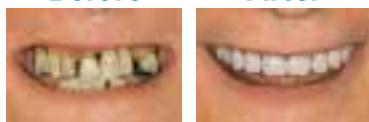
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News

ADVERTISING

Christmas 'midget' advert lands nightspot in hot water

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A NIGHTCLUB has apologised for advertising a Christmas Eve party night with 'midgets'.

The term has become offensive, and Bar Fusion in Tunbridge Wells says it is sorry it promoted the event on its Facebook page in December last year.

A single complaint was made to the Advertising Standards Authority, which investigated and has just announced its findings.

The ASA said: "Two issues were investigated of which two were upheld. Claims on Bar Fusion's Facebook page, for a Christmas event at a bar, viewed on 9 December 2011, featured text which stated 'CHRISTMAS EVE WITH MIDGETS! FOR THE 1ST TIME IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS THIS CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY WITH OUR VERY OWN XMAS MIDGETS that's right MIDGETS!!!!!! ENTRY JUST £5 ALL NIGHT'.

"Beneath this text was an image which included the text 'To you & friends, from Santa's club. December 24th. XMAS EVE With Our Xmas Midgets'."

The complaint, that had to be acted upon by the watchdog, claimed the use of the word 'midgets', was offensive to short statured people; and

the ad was irresponsible, because it reinforced negative attitudes towards short people.

Bar Fusion said it was never its intention to cause offence and with hindsight it felt it was right to apologise for doing so.

It said the night and artists were booked by an outside promoter who used the term. It therefore believed it was acceptable to use the term and that it would not cause offence.

The advert was removed once it was obvious it had caused offence.

And Facebook told the ASA it was not a paid-for Facebook advertisement. The social network site said the content was entirely user generated and it did not monitor, review or verify the claims.

The ASA acknowledged Bar Fusion did not intend to use the ad in future. In its finding, the watchdog considered the "ad portrayed the presence of individuals of short stature as an attraction and source of entertainment".

And it added: "We therefore considered the ad was likely to cause serious and widespread offence. We also considered the ad promoted negative attitudes towards individuals of short stature and was therefore irresponsible."

It concluded the ad breached its code for social responsibility, harm and offence, and ordered the club not to use the ad again in its current form.



OFFENSIVE: Bar Fusions advert was on Facebook

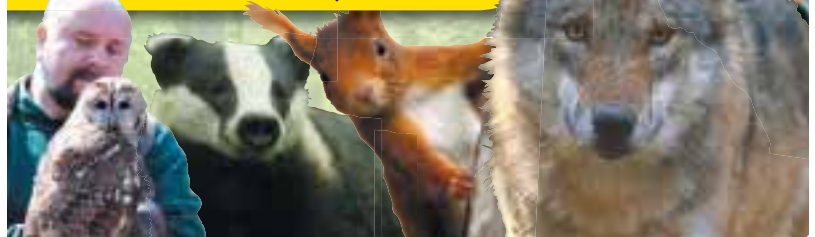
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News

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POLITICS

Tax dodge row

KENT Lib Dem MEP Sharon Bowles says cash raised by Sport Relief pales by comparison to the tax being dodged by multinationals operating in the Third World. "Countries in the developing world are owed far more in corporate tax."

HEADLINE

ACTS: Bob Dylan (right) and Peter Gabriel (far right) are two of the stars who will be performing at the Hop Farm this summer



ENTERTAINMENT

Veteran Bob Dylan heads big names at Hop Farm Festival

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE man behind the Hop Farm Festival says he would book veteran rocker Bob Dylan "every year" if he could, after confirming him as headliner for this year's three-day music extravaganza.

After Prince stole the show last year, his Minnesota compatriot will join Peter Gabriel and indie rockers Suede at the top of the bill at the Pad-dock Wood venue.

Dylan is no stranger to the festival – he headlined just two years ago.

The festival runs over June 29-July 1 in what is shaping up to be one of the most competitive sum-

mers for years for people's time and attention.

Not only are music festival chiefs pushing out the boat in a bid to cash in on Glastonbury's one-year absence, but there are events for the Olympics, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and football's Euro 2012 to contend with, too.

Other acts confirmed this week for the Hop Farm include Damien Rice, Primal Scream, My Morning Jacket, Maximo Park, Patti Smith, The Stranglers, Dr John, Joan Armatrading, Billy Ocean, The Psychedelic Furs, The Jezabels, Benjamin Francis Leftwich, Frightened Rabbit, Tom Vek, White Denim, and a host of others.

Some 30,000 fans are expected for each day.

Vince Power, the music mogul who owns the event and promotes it, said: "Bob Dylan is a fantastic act and helps form what we believe is a great line-up this year. There is a lot of competition out there for people's time and money this year and I don't think any festival has sold out yet. But we're hopeful of getting close to it."

"I know we had Bob headline a few years ago, but I'd have him back every year if I could."

He admitted to having been involved in talks with The Who at the end of last year about a headline slot, but that deal fell through. Stevie Wonder had also been a possibility, before he opted to perform at Bestival on the Isle of Wight.

One of the last major festivals this summer to unveil its line-up, Mr Power also confirmed the first 10,000 weekend tickets would sell for the discounted cost of £150 in a bid to encourage early sales. Children under 12 will go free in a bid to encourage families to attend.

Mr Power had originally planned to unveil the line-up in November, but various issues with headliners prompted a delay.

The Hop Farm Festival shot up the pecking order last summer when it served up Prince, Morrissey and The Eagles. Other acts included the likes of Lou Reed, Brandon Flowers and Iggy Pop.

Power said more big names would be forthcoming over the coming weeks. He estimated there would be around 100 acts in total performing.

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News

HEALTH

Scores on the doors reveal hygiene rating of food outlets

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmeia.co.uk

RESTAURANTS, pubs and food shops have been told they could boost their business if they make the most of a new food hygiene scheme.

If they achieve high standards of hygiene they can then tell everyone with a new sign which shows a rating from zero to five, with the top score being 'very good'. A zero means an urgent improvement is required by the shop, café, takeaway, pub or restaurant.

Under the new National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme inspectors give each food retailer and restaurant a score out of five for its standards of cleanliness and hygiene.

If an establishment is not showing off its score, either the venue has not yet had an inspection or it is ashamed of its rating.

So far Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling and Sevenoaks are migrating to the new Scores on the Doors scheme, while Swale, Shepway, Dover and Thanet are introducing the ratings from scratch.

Tunbridge Wells, Dartford and Gravesham are already operating the scheme.

It is not optional, and every food shop and eatery will be subject to inspection.

It has been introduced in the UK by the Food Standards Agency to reduce food-related illnesses that annually affect one million people a year, killing 500.



POINTS SYSTEM: Inspectors will score retailers

Cllr Jessamy Blandford, Ashford council's portfolio holder for environment, said: "We believe shops and restaurants can attract new customers and win new business by working hard to achieve a good rating and then making sure the public knows how well they have done."

In Tonbridge and Malling, Cllr Howard Rogers, cabinet member for environmental services, added: "Businesses are already legally required to meet hygiene regulations, so it makes sense for those who achieve a good rating to tell customers about it. Good food hygiene means a good rating and a good rating is good for business."

"We were pleased with the way Scores on the Doors worked and we are confident that the new scheme will be equally successful, both in keeping the public safe and in helping businesses win new customers."

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Advertiser's Announcement



Seagulls are a familiar sight in Britain's coastal towns, but as splendid as they look, they can carry a host of nasty organisms making them a potential threat to our health. Now with the added threat of bird flu, salmonella poisoning, botulism and even the deadly e-coli bacteria, which are just a few according to the RSPB.

But they are not only a danger to health, they can become aggressive when nesting and have been known to bombard people who venture too near their chicks.

John Couzens of Gullbuster, knows a lot about seagulls. In the 20 years he has been removing them from residential and industrial buildings, he has seen the enormous damage they can cause. He said: "Flat roofs, chimneys and other housing structures provide ideal sites for seagulls to nest. They leave debris and sometimes dead chicks, which attract parasites in gutters and unused chimneys. Even worse, if the gas flue is obstructed you risk carbon monoxide poisoning."

John also runs a roofing firm which

he started in 1982. As he was frequently asked to remove seagulls from ridge tiles and chimney stacks, he decided to find out everything he could about them.

John contacted the RSPB and the learning curve began.

John said: "All wildlife is protected by law, but as herring gulls (seagulls) and lesser black back gulls pose such a health and safety hazard, the nest and eggs can be removed from a property by an authorised person."

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Gullbuster provides the service to local councils, government buildings and residential homes and has a 95 percent initial success rate. The firm will return to remove gulls if they should come back at another time.

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KENT REMEMBERED



HARD TIMES: Ron Leagas, now 87, lied to join the Army in World War Two and ended up in Normandy

Mum's cooking put Ron in firing line in France

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

A NEW book focuses on the children of World War Two who not only had to survive the bombs raining down on Britain's cities, but joined in with the fighting.

In his book *Blitz Kids*, Sean Longden interviews men and women who were teenagers at the time of the conflict.

One of them is Ron Leagas, who now lives in Ramsgate. The 87-year-old grew up in Leyton in London, which was heavily bombed when the Luftwaffe targeted the East End.

He said: "I always remember the first time the sirens went off. I was playing in the street and my aunt came running out of her house and rushed all the kids into a shelter at the bottom of the garden."

"I can remember being 14 and walking out of the door one day and bombs were coming down in rows. Luckily they landed in a cemetery opposite our house."

Mr Leagas was too young to join the Army in 1941, when he was 16, but after a row with his mother he found his way to the recruiting office.

He said: "I wasn't desperate to join the Army. I was stuck doing a building job and I just got fed up on a hot day."

"I went home in a mood and had an argument about the stew mum had made."

"I said I wanted egg and chips and we had a row and she ended up throwing the stew at me. So I went off saying I was going to join the Army."

The veteran had to forge a note from his father to the recruiting sergeant saying he was old enough to join up.

He said: "At first he said I was too young so I told him that my ID had been lost when our house got bombed."

"I came back with this 'note' from my father who I said was in the café over the road. The sergeant let me in for being cheeky, he said."

Mr Leagas trained at Howe Barracks in Canterbury, preparing for the invasion of Europe. He was the driver of a Bren gun carrier on the beaches of Normandy.

He said: "That was a terrible day; I was about



third carrier onto the beach, but the first one got blown up straight away.

"We had to carry on pushing forward but refused to drive over the bodies, so they made us clear them up with a shovel."

"It was a terrible job."

Mr Leagas continued to fight in France until he was injured by an enemy mortar.

He said: "I heard a mortar gun warming up and the next thing I remember I woke up in hospital."

Mr Leagas met Sean Longden at the War and Peace show held at Paddock Wood.

Mr Longden said: "I was inspired to write the book by the story of my own grandfather who left his home in Queens Park and joined the Army aged 16 during World War One."

"What is less well known is the story of the underage volunteers during World War Two."

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Comment & Opinion

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OPINION

Medway a city in all but name, despite our bid being rejected

The future is bright for Medway, and we will not be knocked off track argues **Mike O'Brien**, a Conservative councillor on Medway Council

MEDWAY was one of 25 areas to bid for city status as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations this year.

Even though the bookmakers had us running a close second, at 6-1, we were not successful this time, beaten to the title by Chelmsford, Perth and St Asaph.

Whilst this is disappointing news, the City of Medway remains our aspiration – we are a city in all but name with our historic cathedral, four universities and a diverse economy.

Each of the five towns has its own distinct identity under one umbrella – Medway. It's what makes our area unique.

The bid was an excellent opportunity to showcase all that is great about the area – just look at the positive national coverage Medway received for

around 5p per person – it is helping to establish Medway firmly on the map.

Whilst the vast majority of residents supported the bid, there were a small minority of vocal opponents. Most were not opposed to city status in principle, only disagreed on when and which part of Medway should receive it.

But the Government guidelines were clear in that the application needed to be for the whole local authority area.

We can take pride in the efforts that were made by everyone in Medway including local businesses, newspapers, schools and the community, who have worked tirelessly to promote the area and can take pride in the knowledge that Medway is a fantastic and safe place to live and work.

We have 28 days of free festivals, the most in the South East, and 2012 is going to be a Year of Celebration with the bi-centenary of Dickens' birth and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee playing a key part.

This will culminate in a River Festival in June and six beacons being lit across the area.

Medway has a rich heritage and close historic ties with the Armed Forces, which includes the Royal Engineers who will be celebrating their 200th anniversary in Gillingham this year.

It is also a centre for sporting excellence, with Medway Park now playing host to world championship events and as a pre-Olympic training camp for Senegal, Congo and Chad.

In August it will be holding the British Transplant Games.

We can see the regeneration



““““

We are building a Medway that our children will enjoy

of the area taking shape before our eyes, with the new road infrastructure completed and new housing being developed, such as at Victory Quays.

There are now some 600 companies employing 6,000 people on the Medway City Estate alone and we are justifiably proud of the 12,000 students studying in our four universities.

We have wonderful countryside right on our doorstep, which is why the council is leading the fight against a Thames estuary airport.

We have lots to be proud of in Medway; we will not be knocked off track. We are building a Medway that our children will enjoy and prosper in, let us celebrate Medway and all that we have achieved and continue to achieve, together.

KOS COMMENT

Parent power wins out on grammar places

THIS week saw the historic moment the district of Sevenoaks was finally granted the grammar school places its politicians and communities have been fighting to have for years.

It marked a significant moment in the history of selective schooling, where there has been no major expansion of grammars for 50 years. While some who oppose the selective system may see this as a knock to the campaign against such schools, Kent is a selective county and therefore whether for or against it, there needs to be provision for children who pass the 11-plus.

This was never an argument about whether selective schooling is right or wrong, this was about ensuring the right provision for our youngsters.

Watch out April fools

SUNDAY is potentially the worst day for April Fool's Day.

When your head is slightly fuzzy from the night before or simply relaxed – it's when you'll least expect a prank and are more likely to fall for it. So pranksters, get ready to take advantage of all those unsuspecting victims.

Most days George feels lost
He has dementia

We understand dementia

We can help
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Open Day 18th April
The New Close in Bridge is having an Open Day, Wednesday 18th April to invite all KOS Media readers to come along and view the new Kingfisher Suite and find out more about Avante Care and Support. Please call for more information.
The New Close, Cornhill Lane, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5JX

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care & support

AvantePartnership is a registered charity

www.avantecaresupport.org.uk

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Letters/emails/twitter

Ramsgate
seafrontby Peter Winkworth,
from Monkton,
near Ramsgate

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Estuary airport
is a done deal

WASTE an opportunity and ensure High Speed 2 does not have proper connections with Heathrow.

Claims to wish to explore all options for increased air capacity?

Except, of course, for expansion at Stansted; except for Gatwick; except for expansion at Heathrow.

Ignore calls from many prominent business leaders – including those in the aviation industry – to do so?

Turn down a substantial financial offer from Sir Richard Branson to help pay for the expansion of Heathrow?

Narrows it down a bit doesn't it?

Can Messrs Cameron and Johnson convince us they have not already made their minds up about the Thames estuary option?

Bill Stevens, Faversham

Public want
truth, not lies

IN THE interests of all of us campaigning to stop this so-called estuary airport, the Government should not be running this country... they can't even answer people's emails.

I'm aware they get thousands of emails, letters, but they can't even answer the people who put them in office.

Never again am I going to vote for any political party, all they do is lie and stab you in the back.

Cameron said in 2010 election manifesto that there would be no estuary airport – lies again.

When will these people stop lying to us, the public?

Then they have secret talks, saying it's not in the public's interest for us to know. No Mr Cameron, it is in my interest.

Campaigns are hard enough without politics involved in

them, so wake up government, give some answers.

No estuary airport.

Robert Standing, by email

Town vision is
a blind alley

I ATTENDED the presentation at the Civic Centre about the Mary Portas project.

I would like to reflect the concerns expressed by some members of local business that the feeling one gets coming into the town of Ashford is not what is expected given the immense publicity given nationally to the shared space and the logo 'Ashford is the place to be'.

I attended a conference in the town some 17 years ago.

Our guest speaker was Richard Branson, the Virgin boss. He gave a warning to tackle the economic development of Ashford now because when Ebbleton station opened it would be too late. I am sorry to say this has come true.

Some 24 years on Ashford Borough Council and I have been to many presentations hearing what should be done for Ashford to prosper.

Here we are in 2012, and we are still waiting for links from the station via the outlet village and the town centre, the education area, the transport hub and the commercial centre.

So far nothing.

Now we depend on a handout of £100,000 to revamp Pall Mall shopping precinct.

We were told Ashford needs good schools, good leisure centres, an athletic stadium and a good department store to attract people to move to the area. We have them and if these people are here they should be shopping in Ashford.

I don't think they do.

May I add my 24 years have been on the opposition bench of the council.

No more visions, but more actions.

Make Ashford a place people

want to come and bring the family and enjoy a lovely day

**George Koowaree,
Kent County Councillor for
Ashford East, member of
Town Centre Partnership
Board**

Drivers must
vote change in

I THOROUGHLY agree with Brian Mooney of the Fair Deal for the Motorist Campaign, as he stated that nearly £50 billion is collected annually in direct motoring taxes, yet only about £4bn is reinvested in new or improved roads.

Yet this greedy government is not satisfied that drivers are paying enough and wants to charge us for new roads which inevitably will lead to their goal of nationwide road tolls.

To put this into perspective, about 85 per cent of passenger miles are by car, rising to about 92 per cent if we include

bus/coach travel, with the small balance by rail.

Yet a complete new rail system (Crossrail) is being constructed under London (which already has a good public transport system) at a cost of £15bn and proposals to spend a start-up £20bn on HS2, which will only be affordable to a very limited customer base and will rely on state subsidies forever.

Private rail companies receive about £5bn in subsidies, yet we still have some of the highest ticket prices in Europe.

If people want to drive on good roads, have reasonable fuel costs and get a more balanced transport expenditure, then in both local and general elections, they have to think beyond the three major parties when it comes to voting.

Otherwise regardless of party, it will just be more of the same.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Responding to
hidden threat

THERE are 800,000 people living with dementia in the UK, yet a new report by the Alzheimer's Society shows that three quarters of us don't feel the country is geared up to deal with dementia.

The Dementia 2012 report has found that almost half a million people with dementia are battling depression, loneliness or anxiety.

Not only do they face a struggle for a diagnosis and support from the health and social care system, but everyday things we all take for granted – getting to the shops, spending time with friends and family, getting money from the bank, going on holiday – are made difficult by the lack of understanding of dementia in our communities.

We must face up to the fact that people with dementia and their carers are being failed.

In the 1950s attitudes to cancer changed, and in the 1980s we did the same for Aids.

Now is the time to begin a movement on dementia.

From Plymouth to Preston and from the boardroom to bus drivers, we all need to respond to the dementia challenge.

**Rosemary Barfoot,
Hildenborough**

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include your daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Advice pays dividends as mystery gets solved

Q I WROTE to you after my husband died and I found payments had been going from his Barclays account to a firm called Readycredit. I had no replies from the firms you identified who have Readycredit as part of their name, so I tried the last resort you suggested and traced the payments through Barclays to Santander. They looked into it and I received almost the full amount back, which was very welcome. Thank you very much indeed for your help.

A It is always good to hear that advice has worked and a reader is better off. You found from bank statements your husband's Barclays account had been paying £13 a month to a mysterious firm called Readycredit. These payments, totalling £2,743, were completely unexplained, and after your husband died, nobody contacted you or his bank to ask why they had stopped. I found a number of firms with offshoots or departments called Readycredit. They included Arcadia Group, which is linked to Burton Menswear, and Viking Collection, which is linked to Santander-owned Abbey National. The real problem was the payments were made by standing order. All Barclays knew was the sort code and account number to which the money was sent. So, top marks to Barclays for tracing where the cash ended up, and I am pleased it found its way back to you.

Q MY husband and I live in a house with 18 acres of pasture land attached, used for our own horses and for growing hay for our own use. We have a barn and stables, and have been here 18 years after buying the property and land as one lot. We are now thinking of downsizing, but I have heard to my horror that capital gains tax could be due on any profit made on the sale of the land, even though it is part of our home. Is this a recent ruling?

A THERE has been no change in the rules, and I am afraid you may well be facing a bill for capital gains tax. Your best bet is to try to minimise it by claiming the allowances and reliefs that are available. The basic rule is that we are all allowed one home that is free from gains tax when we sell it. In official language, this exemption includes any garden or grounds that are necessary for the "reasonable enjoyment" of the property, having regard to its size and character. The taxman will not bat an eyelid at land up to 5,000sq m, but 18 acres is more than 72,000sq m. You will need a professional negotiator – perhaps a local accountant working with a valuer – to try to show that the land matches the size and character of your house. Since keeping horses is probably not nowadays seen as being necessary for the reasonable enjoyment

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



of your home, I am not optimistic. But you can reduce the tax by claiming the annual gains tax exemption, and relief for any improvements and the legal and other costs linked to the sale.

Q I AM named as executor in my cousin's will, but we lost touch years ago. What is the procedure for resigning as executor while he is still alive?

A IF YOU cannot contact your cousin, there is no way to tell him that you no longer want this responsibility. You can only wait until he dies and then decline to act as executor.

Q I HAVE been left £1,000 of War Loan. How do I encash this, and is it worth £1,000?

A War Loan is money borrowed by the Government, originally to fund the World War One. It pays 3.5pc interest and trades on the stock market, currently at about £840 for a £1,000 certificate. Your bank's stockbroking department can sell it for you.

Q I AM sending you a letter I received from Mr Ling Huan, of the Wing Lung Bank in Hong Kong. It is obviously a trick, but I thought other readers might be amused, and there is always the chance someone may be tempted to respond. Does this bank actually exist?

A THE Wing Lung Bank really does exist, but I doubt if the same can be said for Ling Huan. Last year another reader also sent me a letter he received from Ling Huan, spinning the same yarn about how a customer had died, leaving a huge amount of cash unclaimed in his account. The reader was asked to pose as the deceased's next of kin, claim the money, and split it with Ling Huan – exactly the same scheme as proposed in the letter you have received. Nobody should fall for this. You are right. It is a trick. Anyone who replies will be milked for legal fees, taxes and bribes. And, of course, there is no treasure trove of unclaimed cash, just as there is no Ling Huan.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Stop smoking for your financial good health

The health benefits of stopping smoking are well documented, but those who kick the habit can also find themselves quids in. **ADAM AIKEN** reports

WE have recently had the latest No-Smoking Day – the annual event when people are encouraged to pack in the habit.

There is rarely a shortage of pressure on smokers to change their behaviour. Scare tactics are often used, but campaigners can also opt for gentler approaches.

What is usually consistent, however, is the content of these campaigns, with a strong focus on health.

But on top of the obvious health grounds, there are also good financial reasons to stop smoking.

For a start, there is the increasing cost of tobacco. Against the backdrop of higher living costs, wage freezes and high unemployment, it is easy to see just how much smoking can make an ever-bigger dent in your pocket.

Following the recent budget, a packet of 20 cigarettes now costs an average of nearly £7.50. That means someone smoking 20 a day will spend about £2,750 a year on the habit.

If national insurance and tax are taken into account, a basic-rate taxpayer needs to earn approaching £4,000 a year to pay for it.

Heavier smokers, of course, will spend even more than this.

But even if you are a 'casual' smoker and you puff away a lot less than this, you could still find yourself stung financially.

For a start, some home insurers will ask if you are a smoker because homes with smokers in them are often considered to be more at risk of catching fire.

But the real savings often come with life insurance policies.

According to price-comparison service Moneysupermarket.com, a smoker can pay thousands of pounds extra for life insurance and critical illness cover compared with their non-smoking peers.

So added to the cost of not having to buy tobacco any more, the savings can quickly mount up for those who give up smoking.

Emma Walker, head of protection at Moneysupermarket, said: "Not only can smokers reap the medical benefits of kicking the habit, they can avoid letting their hard-earned cash go up in smoke, too."

"With significant savings to be made, those who make the decision to quit should shop around for the best insurance deal to suit their circumstances."



NO IFS OR BUTTS: Kicking the habit can save serious cash on insurance costs

TOP TIPS

■ As with all insurance products, do not automatically plump for the lowest premiums without looking at what you are getting for your money. Check the smallprint. Although stopping smoking is likely to lower your premiums on a like-for-like basis, choosing what cover to buy should not be simply about price.

■ Take care when filling out your application form and make sure your answers are truthful and correct. Give all your relevant personal information and medical history. If you don't, you risk any claim being rejected.

■ As with a will, always review your life insurance and/or critical illness cover if your circumstances change. A new job, getting married or divorced or starting a family might all be events that impact your requirements when it comes to taking out protection.

■ Don't assume your bank will give you the best deal. It might do, of course, but there are plenty of comparison sites, brokers and standalone life insurance providers who might offer you lower premiums for the same (or better) cover.

Moneysupermarket's research demonstrates some of the savings people can make by stopping smoking.

A 30-year-old man looking to take out £150,000-worth of combined critical illness cover and life insurance could save at least £5,490 with Aviva over 25 years if he stopped smoking. A woman wanting the same level of cover could save at least £2,740 with Ageas Protect.

A word of warning, though: insurance companies consider ex-smokers to be "non-smokers" only a year after they have given up. You cannot stop today and immediately qualify for lower premiums.

Matt Morris, senior policy adviser

at life insurance broker Lifesearch, said it was important to shop around for a better deal once you have become a non-smoker, but he warned that other changes in your health meant there was no certainty that you would be able to cut the overall cost.

He said cheaper premiums were not certain, as they also depended on age and health, but there was a very good chance that they would fall.

"It is important to make sure you have a new policy in place before cancelling the existing one, as a new policy could turn up some nasty surprises in underwriting and may even be declined if your health has

CONTACT US...



If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.

You can phone him on **01303 817181** or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Business Week

Your business is our business

'Accentuating the positive will boost trade and investment'

RECENT weeks have seen an encouraging number of positive surveys about the UK's trade, manufacturing, construction and service sectors.

Interest rates are at an all-time low; however, this is tempered by difficult trading in some parts of the retail sector, escalating fuel prices and, for some companies, difficulties with raising business finance. The continued uncertainty within the Eurozone also affects the UK's economic success.

Economists are not short with supplying reams of economic data, but how are we supposed to interpret this?

Indeed, the Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Mervyn King, has said that for much of 2012 we will most probably see a 'zigzagging' in positive and negative quarterly growth.

Personally, I do detect some shoots of optimism for the UK economy; however, data is 'data', and as a business-woman I am passionate about how we can make Kent's economy better.

'Economic success' is an abstract; we're actually talking about 'people success'. So, who is responsible for contributing to 'people success'?

Well, of course it's the Government, local authorities in the form of Kent County Council and Medway Council, district councils, business-support organisations, schools, colleges, universities and, not least, the private sector.

But we all have a responsibility in 'people success' and, to ensure this, I believe we must foster a greater sense of positivity and collaboration.

We only need to look at the UK unem-

Olga D'Silva, head of Zên Languages and chair of IoD Kent's International Business Forum, gives her perspective on the state of the county's economy and what its prospects might be

ployment figures published in March 2012. There are 2.67 million people unemployed, of which, alarmingly, 22.5 per cent are young people aged 16 to 24. We must do everything we can to halt this statistic, particularly youth unemployment; we cannot afford to have a lost generation.

In fact, Sir Mervyn, when interviewed by young journalists as part of the BBC's School Report, said: "It's far easier being the Governor of the Bank of England than being unemployed."

So, what are we doing to make the Kent economy stronger?

In March, for example, I was privileged to attend two events, one highlighting Kent as a great business location and the other supporting young Kent entrepreneurs.

At the Kent Foundation For Young Entrepreneurs event, an initiative backed by KCC, it was good to meet young people who have already set up in business, and as the 'mature' busi-

ness community we learned how we can support them more, including through mentoring. Indeed, IoD Kent complements the work of the Kent Foundation through the Kent Association Of Young Entrepreneurs.

Both initiatives explore ways of helping young people to succeed in business, but Kevin Lynes, KCC cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said: "We must do more to encourage entrepreneurial activity."

At the Locate in Kent event, we learned how businesses can become 'business champions' to promote Kent as a "21st-century location to live and work". I can endorse this; I love living and working in Kent, but we all need to champion why it's so good to be in Kent in our business dealings.

There is plenty of other business support; however, I do recognise that many companies are confused about the business support offerings in Kent.

Are you aware, for example, that you

can receive a subsidy to take on an apprentice? Did you know the Government recently launched the National Export Challenge via UK Trade & Investment supporting the SME sector (small and medium-sized enterprises) to trade internationally?

You may have heard of Enterprise Europe Network or various European initiatives, including 2 Seas Trade, but how do you access these to help your business?

KCC has recognised Kent's business-support needs to be more coherent. So, at the Kent 2020 Exhibition in April, you can learn all about the Backing Kent Business initiative, as well as the launch of Kent International Business.

These are backed by stakeholders and partners including IoD Kent through the International Business Forum, sponsored by HSBC, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Locate in Kent, BSK-CiC (Business Support Kent), UK Trade & Investment and universities.

In March, we saw David Cameron and Barack Obama accentuating the positive in the UK-US relationship and we must capitalise on this for our UK-US business dealings. Indeed, in September 2012, KCC's international team is leading a trade mission to Virginia and Boston, which you could take part in.

I strongly believe that we can help ourselves by taking positive actions, adopting a 'can-do' attitude and a greater sense of collaboration.

That way, we won't have to try to interpret economic data – we can create our own economic data and all help to ensure the economic health, wealth and success of the people of 'Kent plc'.



Numbers add up for charity that takes on accountancy firm to balance books

CREASEYS, the Tunbridge Wells accountancy firm, has been appointed as auditor to the charity Compaid.

The Paddock Wood group, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, supports disabled people by both getting them involved with computers and providing much-needed transport solutions.

Compaid offers a range of practical services, using information technology and other resources, to enable disabled adults and children in and around Kent to maximise their social, creative, learning and employment opportunities.

Creaseys has many years of experience of acting for registered charities and not-for-profit organisations and understands the culture and aims of such groups.

"We were delighted to have been

appointed as Compaid's auditor," said Roger Ward, heads of the Creaseys charities unit.

"We work with a variety of charities and it's nice to develop a partnership with one so close to our offices."

Stephen Elsdon, chief executive of Compaid, said: "Creaseys is well respected locally, but it also has good national and international reach, and that particularly attracted us."

Mr Ward said his experience of handling assignments in the voluntary sector enabled him to adopt an approach he considered essential to modern accountancy – the ability to listen to and understand clients' wants and to care for their needs.

He said: "We are looking forward to working with Compaid and supporting them in the important work they do."

Web-developer after Collabor8tors who need help to get their message across

CHATHAM web-developer Netsite is on the hunt for organisations, particularly 'not-for-profit' groups and charities, to pioneer the use of online communities that allow people to communicate and collaborate.

Netsite, established 14 years ago, has already worked successfully with NHS South East Coast and NHS West Kent on projects such as the Learning Network and Healthy Passport Club.

Now the Netsite team wants to encourage charities to try out a new application called Collabor8tor that can bring a range of benefits in a cost-effective way.

Managing director Paul Duthoit said: "We are willing to work with organisations with a limited budget and, in the early days for pioneers, only make a charge to cover our costs, in

order to spread the word about Collabor8tor. For instance, housing associations wanting to set up an online community would find the tool really useful to enable residents to communicate, discuss, learn and share information quickly and easily.

"It is called managed social/ collaborative networking – we are creating a platform with controlled access that enables groups of employees and customers to collaborate and improve services."

www.netsite.co.uk offers a range of services from bespoke website design through to content-managed e-recruitment systems.

The company has clients including the NHS, Rochester Avionic Archives, Crewsaver and The Historic Dockyard Chatham.

'Policies ride roughshod over Coalition's green credentials'

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Government's stated commitment to protecting the environment has been exposed as a sham by the Budget, say campaigners who highlight "an economic path which locks us into unsustainable, high-carbon, short-term growth".

They say that many parts of Kent have been put under severe threat by policies put forward by Chancellor George Osborne in his 2012 statement.

Proposals to expand airport capacity in the South East – including the possibility of an environmentally-damaging hub in the Thames estuary – have also come under fire.

Martin Harper, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) conservation director, said: "George Osborne's plan for growth clearly involves building more infrastructure, more roads and more runways, but this must be compatible with the green economy we have been promised so many times by this government."

"In the autumn statement last year, Mr Osborne set out a plan for short-sighted economic growth based on the mistaken belief that environmental protection is a burden on business."

"In his Budget speech he has continued to commit us to that path, locking us into an unsustainable economic plan that fails to take into account the very real value of our wildlife and countryside."

The RSPB added that environmental safeguards in no way hindered positive economic development.

Steve Gilbert, conservation programme manager for RSPB South East, said: "As a result of safeguards such as the Habitats Regulations, developers, planners and conservationists have worked together to find creative



FLIGHT OF FANCY? The Government has said that plans for a giant airport in the wildlife-rich Thames estuary are to be considered in its review of aviation policy

solutions to development that could otherwise potentially damage protected areas.

"Under the Habitats Regulations a major new port development, London Gateway, is taking place in the middle of the Thames while safeguarding the area's incredible and heavily-protected wildlife."

"Our government has pledged to halt biodiversity loss by the end of the decade and has also set itself tough targets on carbon emissions."

"Any proposals that would allow an airport to be built on the wildlife-rich mudflats of north Kent would blast a hole through these promises."

"The area is home to hundreds of thousands of wintering wetland birds and enjoys the highest level of legal protection available."

"It is of global environmental significance, a fact that has helped see off several previous proposals for airports in the area. The Government's own groundbreaking Natural Ecosystems Assessment unveiled last year highlighted the economic importance of green spaces and wildlife-rich sites like the Thames estuary."

"Politicians have promised us a new 'green economy' so many times that some of us even started believing it."

"We agree that development is necessary if the UK is to remain competitive, we agree that our economy needs to grow to enable all of us to prosper. But this must not happen at the cost of our environment."

The Government is to release full details of its review of the Habitats Regulations – the

most important system of protection for wildlife-rich habitat – and this week unveiled reform of the planning system.

Jamie Weir, of CPRE Protect Kent, said: "Despite initially snubbing the idea of increased airport capacity in the South East, the Government seems to have now done a U-turn on it."

"If airports within the UK better allocate their slots and utilise smart-hubbing, we can avoid an unnecessary and costly development that is unlikely to bring economic prosperity yet could destroy a huge amount of our countryside."

"The idea that we must build a new airport in the South East is incredibly short-sighted and fails to take account of the powerful arguments we have for not developing any new aviation capacity."

Do you dread the PowerPoint call?

A NEW concept in visual presentation for business is being pioneered by a Maidstone company.

Vidoons says it provides an alternative to traditional slide-show-orientated company gatherings as well as offering multi-media opportunities to firms.

"We're on a mission to save the world from death by PowerPoint," says the company's promotional literature.

The company creates animations, caricatures and cartoons which can form part of slide-shows, along with video, music and voice-overs.

These can be used for presentations, websites and videos.

The company says its service is unique – so a new word had to be coined to describe it.

Vidoons is the brainchild of Patrick Blower, a cartoonist who has drawn for The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian and the London Evening Standard, and former BBC producer and film-maker Graham Majin.

The company put its videos online to attract its initial trade.

"There's nothing quite like what we do anywhere in the world," said Mr Blower.

"Vidoons – a mixture of video and cartooning is unique – so we had to invent a new word."

A Vidoon posted on YouTube recently gained 60,000 hits in just a few months and law firms, universities, environmental organisations and the London Philharmonic Orchestra are among its clients.

ACCORDING TO VIDOONS...

- A survey found that 33 per cent of respondents dreaded creating a presentation while 29 per cent dreaded sitting through one.
- Twenty per cent said they would prefer going to the dentist.
- A political party, the Anti-PowerPoint Party, has been formed in Switzerland to ban PowerPoint, which, it claims, wastes more than £200 billion a year by taking people away from 'real work'.

"We're putting the story-telling back into people's presentations" said Majin.

"It doesn't matter whether the presentation is about a company's sales figures, their new IT system, or about how they're trying to reduce carbon emissions."

"We all love cartoons and we all love to hear a story: Vidoons turn presentations into stories."

"Your audience sees something start to appear and they're irresistibly drawn into it. It's a visual journey."

At the moment some 50 per cent of the company's business is coming from the US, with New York-based not-for-profit inspirational speaking organisation TED – which works with people such as Bill Clinton, Al Gore and Bill Gates – among its latest clients.

"I'd say at least 50 per cent of enquires come from the US" said Majin.

"I think it's because the US has a more extrovert culture. They expect higher levels of showmanship and communication in all walks of life and that includes business presentations. Show-and-tell is a big part of their childhood experience."

"We're very comfortable working for global customers. The Government says it wants to make the UK a global-innovation hub, with a specific focus on the digital-creative sector."

"We're happy to be part of that."

"It's great to think of people around the world using Vidoons in their presentations. Anything that makes the world's presentations less tedious and more fun has got to be a good thing."

'End is nigh' for our arcades after Budget changes the game

AMUSEMENT arcades could be forced to close by new regulations introduced in the Budget concerning tax on gaming machines.

Arcade machines will be subjected to Machine Games Duty introduced on gross profits and set at two rates: 20 per cent, and 5 per cent for machines with very low prizes.

The amusements, traditionally called 'one-armed bandits', have long been a feature of the Kent seaside resort – but the industry has been struggling to maintain momentum for years.

Arcade trade association BACTA says it is hugely alarmed at these rates, having repeatedly told the Treasury that rates of anything above 15 per cent and 3 per cent will cripple the industry and cause many closures.

Derek Petrie, president of BACTA, said:

"The end for many amusement arcades is nigh. Despite hundreds of small-business-owners warning politicians for 18 months now of the danger that Machine Games Duty would present to our industry, Chancellor George Osborne has failed to listen."

"The rates that the minister has proposed for his new tax on arcades are simply too high and will result in another cruel wave of closures on the seaside."

"It is inconceivable that a Government supposedly committed to small business and to tourism has made this decision – 300 arcades and 1,000 jobs have already gone."

"Now more will follow."



LOW EBB: Margate seafront could decline further

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT



THERE TO HELP YOU:
Mr Simon Hammond



YOUR starter for 10: Name something that any businessman or woman knows is essential, really doesn't like dealing with and often gets shoved to the bottom of the 'must do' pile.

Insurance. Not exactly the sexiest topic to inspire the county's entrepreneurs, who are bombarded with conflicting claims about who provides the best cover for the cheapest price.

You can even go compare at the money supermarket, but you'll end up as mystified as a meerkat. Which is why it pays to use someone like Simon Hammond.

The Hammond Consultancy, based in Ashford, specialises in insurance for business, takes the complexity out of choosing the right policy and manages the process, from helping fill in the initial forms to advising on making a claim.

Simon's assiduous attention to detail – he deals with all clients personally – and his 10-year track record means he has won increasing market share among Kent companies, from sole traders to fast-growing corporates with turnovers from £10,000 to £10 million.

His philosophy is simple: source the most competitive quotes, react quickly to enquiries and check with clients before policy renewal dates to ensure they provide adequate cover.

Personal service with a capital PS.

"Of course, there's always someone who will offer a cheaper deal, but the real issue is providing the right cover and making sure that policies meet the needs of businesses as they grow," says Simon.

However, he is mindful that tough times call for value-for-money and he is justifiably proud of saving a major client £24,000 a year in premiums on a portfolio of policies.

And there's also his ability to respond quickly: he recently provided insurance in less than 24 hours for a celebrity client borrowing £35,000 worth of jewellery for a photoshoot.

If you would like advice on business insurance, contact Simon Hammond at The Hammond Consultancy:

- Telephone 01233 712812
- info@thehammondconsultancy.co.uk
- www.thehammondconsultancy.co.uk

Business insurance, it's more important than meerkats...

SOLE TRADERS

SIMON Hammond is passionate about ensuring that start-up businesses have the correct cover.

"I know just how daunting it is, and a supportive consultancy such as ours can be tremendously reassuring," he says.

"While insurance premiums are very inexpensive right now, there's often some arduous form-filling that I can handle on a client's behalf, as well as providing an immediate quote over the phone."

Simon's range of small-business policies include:

- Public liability for a range of businesses, including small builders, electricians and carpenters.
- Property owners' insurance for landlords.
- Professional indemnity to protect self-employed professionals.
- Policies for shops and offices, including public and employers' liability, stock and contents, and interruption of business in the event of a fire.

LARGER COMPANIES

COMPANIES turning over more than £1 million may have more specific insurance requirements, and Simon Hammond makes a point of personally visiting clients to understand their business, the people involved and how they operate.

In addition to the standard policies needed by all larger companies, Simon also provides:

- Fleet policies for company vehicles.
- Goods in transit insurance.
- Private medical insurance schemes.
- Personal insurances for company directors.

TESTIMONIALS

HERE'S what some of Simon Hammond's clients say about The Hammond Consultancy...

"You set the standards for others to follow... it is very refreshing to come across a professional, polite and prompt service. I have no hesitation in recommending your organisation."

M O'Donnell, head of finance and human resources, The Elite group of companies

"The Hammond Consultancy provides us with a comprehensive and thorough evaluation of our insurance needs, then finds us an insurance company who give service and value. Just what we need to get on with our own business."

D Aisher, managing director, Drakes Plumbing Supplies

"The Hammond Consultancy took the time to understand our needs, and then delivered exactly what was required."

P Stratton, financial controller, Neville UK plc

SOCIAL CARE SECTOR

CARE providers need specialist insurance to cover eventualities that can arise when serving the vulnerable, both young and old.

The Hammond Consultancy can tailor your needs to bespoke social care liability, professional indemnity and medical malpractice insurance.

Expert help is needed for:

- Abuse or injury to residents, staff or members of the public
- Allegations against directors or staff, including claims of bullying, sexism, racism or breaches of health and safety legislation.
- Volunteers who often undertake similar tasks to employees.

Training, courses and careers

Students showing off forensic skills

FORENSIC science students from Canterbury College have been using their skills to investigate cars involved in road traffic collisions.

Year 2 BTEC students gathered forensic evidence from a vehicle involved in a serious collision when they visited Copart vehicle salvage yard in Sandwich.

They examined the vehicle to find clues which told the story of how it crashed.

The session helped them learn how traffic accident investigators use scientific investigative techniques to reconstruct the events leading to accidents.

It was the first time forensic science students had been able to put themselves in the shoes of traffic accident investigators.

Tutor Trevor Boddy said: "The visit allowed the students to complete their studies regarding road traffic collision investigation. Without such a visit it would have been difficult for them to get the understanding they need to pass."

Forensic investigation students at Canterbury College work with industry experts and go on various trips to broaden their knowledge.

Recently, students learned about crime scene investigation when Kent Police forensic specialists held a class at the college.

For more on forensic science at the college, go to www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/science.

Bluewater lesson in product display

SHEPPEY students visited John Lewis Blue-water for a masterclass in creating eye-catching product displays.

The department store is supporting students studying for a BTEC first diploma in business, retail and fashion marketing level 2 to apply academic theory to practical situations.

Staff from visual merchandise team, who are responsible for creating displays in the shop, shared their knowledge on how to prepare, plan and install displays, using that season's key fashion and home trends.

Students also had a behind-the-scenes visit to the visual merchandising studio and workshop to see the team at work, followed by a practical session where they made their own designs.

Lecturer Anne Minett said: "Our visit to John Lewis was truly inspirational for the students and proved that 'seeing really is believing'."

"Whilst this is taught in college, students really benefit from hearing this and experiencing service standards expected in the workplace from major employers and especially from a department store with a reputation for the highest standard of customer service."

Apprentices' chance to put best foot forward

YOUNG people across Kent and Medway interested in a career in health and social care are being invited to join Medway Community Healthcare as an apprentice.

Successful applicants will undertake an apprenticeship that will combine studying towards a diploma in business administration, or health and social care, with working at Medway Community Healthcare, which provides a range of NHS community health services for adults and children.

It also supplies specialist, urgent, and out-of-hours services.

Helen Cunningham, human resources and organisational development director,

said: "As an apprentice you can get your career off to a great start."

"Not only will you gain valuable experience in a full-time job but also study towards a recognised vocational qualification, a technical certificate, functional skills in English and maths, and complete a range of in-house training programmes – all of which are fully funded."

No experience is necessary to apply for an apprenticeship as all training is offered as part of the scheme.

Since the Medway Community Healthcare apprenticeship scheme began in April, 2010, 10 students have completed apprenticeships.

Of those who have completed their apprenticeship, six now have permanent jobs with Medway Community Healthcare in teams including dental, nutrition and dietetics and human resources.

The remaining apprentices have gained places at university or gone into other areas of employment, including the British Army.

Former apprentice Liz Emery, 21, completed her apprenticeship in April 2011 and now works in the practice development team.

She has been part of the interview panel for new apprenticeships, and said: "The apprenticeship gave me everything I wanted. I was able to earn a wage while studying and developing new skills and the experience I gained helped me to secure a permanent job."

Apprentices can choose to study towards an ad-

vanced apprenticeship in health and social care in either respiratory or podiatry (foot) care which will involve working with patients and clinical staff, as well as offering administrative support to the team.

The apprenticeships take 18 months and involve visiting patients at home to provide care, information and advice.

A 12-month administration apprenticeship is also available in the podiatry service. This role will involve a full range of administrative tasks including liaising with patients and staff; organising appointments; dealing with enquiries; and maintaining accurate records.

Apprentices earn £97.50 a week. The closing date for applications is Monday, April 16. To apply visit <https://apprenticeshipvacancymatchingservice.lsc.gov.uk/navms/forms/candidate/Apprenticeships.aspx>.



OPPORTUNITY: Medway Community Healthcare is looking to take on new apprentices

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

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Student chef cooks up a storm to win prestigious French competition

THANET College student Joe Gray, who is studying to be a chef, has won the prestigious Auguste Escoffier Foundation cooking competition.

Joe, 19, from Deal, studies Professional Chef Level 3 at the college. Four colleges from the South East were teamed up with French colleges, and students worked in pairs to cook the same two-course meal in three hours.

Thanet College was teamed with Lycée Francis de Croisset, in Grasse, and Joe worked with stu-

dent Sonia Gomes on their dish.

He cooked the main meal of sea bass Cleopatra with stuffed courgette flowers and saffron potatoes, while Sonia made the dessert of lemon tuille.

The judges, including top French chefs, praised Joe's classical interpretation of the dish, describing his food as 'faultless'.

Roger Phillips, programme area manager for catering and hospitality, said: "This is a first-rate competition with the opportunity for French and Eng-

lish students to work together.

"Joe represented the college exceptionally well and had an excellent result. It's an experience he'll never forget."

Chef tutor Steve Kendall mentored Joe, and said: "His classical approach to the dish was the right approach to take."

Joe said he enjoyed competing, and added: "Working under such immense pressure as well as having the language barrier was difficult, but a great experience."



SCHOOL DAYS: The Countess of Wessex helped her old school celebrate its 125th anniversary

Royal old girl gets in on the act

PUPILS and staff at Kent College Pembury welcomed back old girl the Countess of Wessex last week.

The college is celebrating its 125th anniversary year and Sophie officially re-opened the college theatre which has been re-named the Countess of Wessex Theatre following its refurbishment a year after it was damaged in a fire.

The countess, who attended the girls' school in Pembury from 1976-81, said she was delighted to return and commented on the happy years she had at the school.

Sophie had the opportunity to meet and chat

with girls in the prep and senior school who proudly cheered and waved windmills to mark occasion.

Pupils treated the countess to an excerpt of the school's theatre production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, before announcing the official re-opening of the Countess of Wessex Theatre.

Students also released 125 balloons to mark the occasion and to celebrate the school's 125th anniversary.

During her visit, Sophie enjoyed an informal lunch with some of her former teachers – who even brought along some of her old school books.

Grammar pupils celebrating after winning places at top universities

EIGHT Maidstone Grammar School students are celebrating after being offered places at three of the world's top seats of learning – University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, and Harvard University in America.

They will all start their degree courses in September.

Deputy headmaster Paul Smith said he was absolutely delighted the students' talents had been recognised by such

prestigious universities.

He said: "Rob Ledniczky is the first student in the school's 460 year history to win a place at Harvard and the number of offers students have received from Oxford and Cambridge is the best we have achieved for over 10 years."

The successful students are: Alec Cunningham (University of Cambridge – law); Robert Ledniczky (Harvard University

– liberal arts); Thomas Kingston (University of Cambridge – mathematics); Joshua Mustill (University of Cambridge – economics); Toby Abbott (University of Oxford – history and politics); Philip Burgess (University of Cambridge – economics); Emily Chadwick (University of Cambridge – modern and medieval languages); Alexander Brown (University of Cambridge – natural sciences).

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Fri 6–Mon 9 April	British Superbike Championship
Sat/Sun 21/22 April	British Truck Racing Championship
Fri 18–Sun 20 May	DTM (German Touring Cars)
Sat/Sun 26/27 May	Masters Historic Festival
Sat/Sun 16/17 June	Mini Festival
Sat/Sun 23/24 June	British F3/GT Championships
Sat/Sun 30 June/1 July	The HSCC Historic Superprix
Sun 8 July	Modified Live
Fri 13–Sun 15 July	FIA Formula Two/International GT Open
Fri 20–Sun 22 July	British Superbike Championship
Sat/Sun 18/19 August	Lotus Festival
Wed–Sat 5–8 September	The Paralympic Games Road Cycling
Fri 12–Sun 14 October	British Superbike Championship
Sat/Sun 20/21 October	British Touring Car Championship
Sat/Sun 3/4 November	British Truck Racing Championship
Sat 24 November	Britcar 'Into the Night' Race

Please note all dates are provisional and subject to change



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YOUR NEXT MOVE



DON'T GIVE UP! 'Today's businesses face a plethora of red tape and bureaucracy, exacerbated by the increasingly litigious society within which we live and trade,' says Roger House, right, who says the FSB offers invaluable support to its members in the endless struggle with officialdom

FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Join us and reap the benefits in the battle against red tape

IT is the goal of the Federation of Small Businesses to continually deliver unbeatable value for its membership.

The members have significant benefits available to them and the right of membership benefits provide protection and commercial advantage in line with the needs of most businesses.

There are also additional membership facilities available for FSB members delivered by our service-providers.

The FSB Legal Protection Scheme is the cornerstone of membership. Today's businesses face a plethora of red tape and bureaucracy, exacerbated by the increasingly litigious society within which we live and trade.

The exposure is forever growing. Reliable and practical support is difficult to find and expensive to maintain.

As a right of membership, every business will benefit from:

- 24/7 legal advice from qualified lawyers.
- Staffed by solicitors and barristers, the FSB legal

advice line is provided as a right of membership and the only additional cost is the telephone call, which is charged at local network rates.

- Legal insurance protection. The insurance protection covers full, joint and retired and associate members for a wide range of business-related activities. The insurance protection includes legal fees and statutory awards in specified disputes, including employment and tax. There is a limit of £50,000 for any one claim; however, the protection is available for more than one claim up to a maximum of £1 million in any one year. The insurance is subject to terms and conditions.

- Legal information online. Members are able to access information and documentation on employment and commercial law, tax and health and safety available through the FSB website when logged in as a member.

With thousands of members using the site every month, it is clear that the provision of easy-to-access online legal and tax information is a valuable member benefit.



CXK

Summer can be the best yet for young

YOUNG people in Kent and Medway are being given the opportunity to spend a summer full of adventure and excitement, learning new skills, making new friends and even improving their CV with an exciting array of activities.

CXK (formerly Connexions Kent & Medway) is delivering National Citizen Service, which offers young people aged 15 and 16 the chance to take on adventurous challenges and put something back into the community through a social-action project.

Working in partnership with the National Youth Agency and O2 Think Big, CXK has been awarded 736 places, which are now up for grabs for 2012 Year 11 leavers who either live in or attend school in Kent.

For 17 days between June and August, young people will get to take part in a range of events, including a fun-packed five-day residential experience away from home featuring outdoor activities, inspirational speakers and a social-action festival celebrating the positive contribution young people can make to society.

On their return home, they'll be making a real impact in the community by organising their own social-action project, supported by O2 Think Big. And when it all ends, they'll get the chance to meet prospective employers and colleges, finding out about training and volunteering opportunities.

What's more, NCS graduates will be invited to an event at The O2 in London to celebrate their achievements with a night of music and dance.

Lauren Anning, head of delivery support, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to take part in an exciting new adventure as well as learn new skills."

For the whole experience, including the residential accommodation, food, transport and certificate for programme completion, not forgetting the celebration party, the organisers just ask for a £50 voluntary contribution, with bursaries available on request.

■ **For more information, phone CXK on 01622 683155 or email info@cxk.org. You can also complete an application form at www.connexionskentandmedway.co.uk.**

Members continue to find it useful, informative and a necessary weapon in the continual battle to keep abreast of legal developments in employment law, commercial and business law and health and safety information.

In addition, there is a huge range of other benefits. It is entirely a member-led organisation overseen by a regional committee and driven at the grass roots by five local branches and their committees.

With almost 7,000 members, there is a growing value in the networking and collaboration opportunities, together with the opportunity to meet and lobby both local and national politicians at all levels. For more information, please call the office on 01622 688134 or email office.kent@fsb.org.uk.

I look forward to seeing you either as a member or at one of the many networking events I attend. You will always be made welcome in the FSB.

■ **Roger House, regional chairman**

CNCA

Help agency continues to set a high standard

CNCA is Kent's most respected independent nursing and care agency and the leading provider of training for professional care in the community.

Since 1993, CNCA has been providing qualified carers, support workers, residential social-workers, care assistants and companions to the NHS, Social Services, private hospitals and trusts, nursing homes, residential homes, day-care centres and housing associations across Kent.

A key contribution of the agency is its support of adults with learning difficulties, in homes and in the community, so that they can lead as independent lives as possible.

It has established a reputation for responding quickly, providing the highest standards in professional care and exceeding expectation in client satisfaction.

CNCA has rigorous training-induction procedures for its own staff and has established a training and assessment centre to provide in-house NVQ supervision and assessment for all major care disciplines.

Every day it looks to see where it can improve, accepting and understanding its responsibilities. It will act without hesitation to do all that is required and more.

Sometimes people face 'extraordinary' problems, some expected, others unique situations that occur out of the blue. What is meant by 'extraordinary' is a problem faced outside the realm of 'ordinary' lives.

For instance, a loved one might be enduring some form of physical disability, or a family member experiencing the after-effects of an operation; a child might be born with severe learning difficulties or autism; or, indeed, a parent could have grown too old to safely fend for themselves.

Each situation has its difficulties and comes wrapped in unique circumstances, not only for the family, but more importantly for the person who requires support.

If you are facing an extraordinary situation, the question is 'Where do I turn for help?'. The first port of call is usually, and appropriately, Social

Services, who will try to help find a solution.

Unfortunately, many changes are taking place in the care sector and more emphasis is placed on the individual to arrange their own carers. Herein lies the difficulty and possibly another dilemma for the family. CNCA has been helping people in Kent for more than 13 years, supporting families and their loved ones at home with qualified carers and support workers.

All staff undertake rigorous police and other statutory checks, a full induction process that examines both their qualifications and references and have regular training.

Once a comprehensive needs assessment is carried out, the appropriate care is delivered and maintained.

CNCA operates a 24-hour service, 365 days a year, manned by care co-ordinators who have detailed knowledge of each individual's needs.

■ **If you require help, phone 01233 619530, or alternatively email info@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk.**

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Excellent businesses rewarded

KENT businesses joined together this week at the prestigious Canterbury Cathedral Lodge to celebrate commercial brilliance.

The Kent Invicta Chamber's Excellence In Business Awards evening turned out to be a special evening for not only the winners but for all those who attended, with an entertaining show of tricks and illusion from entertainment group Magic On The Menu.

Now in their seventh year, the awards have been a great catalyst to promote the excellence in business that is so abundant in the county.

The awards were in split into five categories, and with a record number of entries for each award it was extremely difficult to select just three finalists for each.

Business Of The Year was RIFT Ltd; winner of the Excellence In Customer Service award was Canterbury Cathedral Lodge; and top of the Achievement In International Business category was Quorum Technologies Ltd.

The Most Promising New Business award went to Think3e and the

Entrepreneur Of The Year title went to Lynn Janes, of Quay Assessment Community Interest Company.

All the winners and finalists will now go forward to the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) National Awards, and Kent Invicta is confident of continuing its success in this competition.

For the past two years the South East Business Of The Year has come from Kent, with the chamber's 2011 Most Promising New Business, Recruitment Genius, going on to win the BCC national award.

Summing up at the end of the event, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive Jo James said: "I hope everybody enjoyed themselves – I certainly did."

"Not only with reference to the entertainment, but also with regard to the excellence in business represented by the award-winners and finalists – indeed all the entrants for the awards."

"The quality and quantity of applications received year each just go to show what an entrepreneurial county we work in."

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Jasmin Vardimon

Company Administrator

The Jasmin Vardimon Company has created a reputation for producing visually stunning, narrative driven, contemporary dance theatre.

Having recently completed the move into our new home in Ashford, Kent, the company is seeking to appoint a Company Administrator to work closely with the General Manager in the running of the busy office as the company expands its national and international profile, alongside, overseeing and updating the friends and supporters scheme.

Applicants must be passionate and knowledgeable about dance and theatre, will have completed an arts degree or equivalent and have had at least one years experience within a professional arts environment.

For a full job description and person specification please e mail producer@jasminvardimon.com

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 10th April

Unfortunately we will be unable to reply to those we have not shortlisted for interview.

Successful candidates will be contacted by Thursday April 12th interviews will be held on Tuesday April 17th.

Education Administrator

The Jasmin Vardimon Company is seeking to appoint a highly motivated and energetic education administrator. This is an exciting role at a time when the company is launching its innovative training programme, JVC Certificate and expanding its national and international offer.

Applicants must have completed an arts degree or equivalent, fully up to date with educational policy at secondary, further and higher levels.

Initially this post is for 3 days a week with a view to becoming full time within the next twelve months.

For a full job description and person specification please e mail: producer@jasminvardimon.com

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 10th April

Unfortunately we will be unable to reply to those we have not shortlisted for interview.

Successful candidates will be contacted by Thursday April 12th interviews will be held on Tuesday April 17th.

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CAPEL GRANGE RESIDENTIAL HOME

Requires the following positions

Experienced Care Staff

working within dementia care and

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Pay rates to be negotiated

For further information, please call Mrs S Grist on 01892 834225 or alternatively email your CV to care@capelgrange.co.uk

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15 hours per week
£8.20 per hour
Monday and Friday 09:00 - 17:30,
1 hour for lunch
Start date : 2nd July 2012



Working within a busy administration team at the prestigious Kent Science Park, you will be meeting and greeting visitors, running front of house and making daily contact with park tenants. Duties include: telephone answering, managing room hire, postal service, data inputting, stationery ordering, photocopying, faxing, filing and general office support duties. You must be computer literate using Word, Excel and Outlook, full training will be given on Cotag (security system). You should be able to work on your own initiative and possess a pleasant telephone manner.

Written applications including CV to:
Babs Knott, Site Administrator, Woodstock House, Winch Road, Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8AG, email b.knott@ksp-uk.com or ring Babs Knott for more details 01795 411500
Closing date: 23rd April 2012



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One of the UK's leading solar installation companies is looking for Electricians to work as part of the solar PV installation team. Must have 17th Edition with Part P plus 2391 inspection testing and certification. Roofing / Carpentry experience would also be a distinct advantage.

Please forward a full CV by 6th April 2012

sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk
GML Construction, Orchard House,
Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH
01622 742708
www.gmlconstruction.co.uk
GML Construction is an equal opportunities employer



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Please forward a CV to
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk
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Tel: 01622 742 708
Only successful applicants will be contacted by 6th April 2012
www.thegreenhomecompany.com
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£25,472 - £35,430 per annum plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239

37 hours per week, 10am - 6pm (some weekend working may be required)

Fixed term until end of March 2014 • Based Chatham

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A registered nursing qualification is essential.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference number 902 in your application.

Closing date: Friday 13 April 2012. Interview date: TBC

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For all enquiries please contact Amanda Manning on 01304 379280.



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Send your CV and covering letter to ian.patel@archant.co.uk

The closing date for completed applications is Friday March 30, 2012

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

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Job Description:

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For an immediate start.

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www.churchillcatering.co.uk



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E-MAIL: headoffice@benecareltd.co.uk

113a St John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

www.benecareltd.co.uk to download application form, complete and return to above address

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Public Sector

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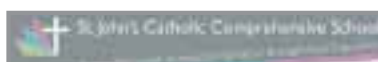
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Muireann Casserly
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Rochester Road
Gravesend
DA12 2JW

The closing date for applications is Thursday 12th April 2012. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 17th April 2012.

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Dawn Coady, Group Recruitment Manager,
Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE
or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford**PLUMPTON & GREEN LANE, BRABOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plumpton & Green Lane, Brabourne, on or after 17 April 2012 for up to 18 weeks.

PLUMPTON will be closed in phases from the junction with Hampton Lane, working towards Manor Pound Lane.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Hampton Lane, Canterbury Road, Bulltown Lane and Green Lane. Signage in Quarrington Lane will indicate which direction traffic can travel when it reaches Plumpton.

GREEN LANE will then be closed between the junctions with Plumpton and Manor Pound Lane.

The alternative route is via Bulltown Lane, Brabourne Road and Weekes Lane

The progress of the works will depend on weather and ground conditions, and the specific sections of road to be closed will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury**CASTLE ROAD & KINGSDOWN PARK, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of sewer relining works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Castle Road & Kingsdown Park, Whitstable, on or after 2 April 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Castle Road will be closed to the north of the junction with Northwood Road.

The northern section of **Kingsdown Park** will be closed at its eastern junction near Kingsdown Lodge, with access maintained from Northwood Road up to the point of closure.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Tankerton Road, the southern section of Kingsdown Park and Northwood Road.

There will be temporary traffic lights at the junction of Castle Road, Northwood Road and Kingsdown Park.

**CHURCH LANE AND HIGHSTEAD, CHISLET
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To enable high-friction road surfacing works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Lane and Highstead, Chislehurst, on or after 2 April 2012 for up to 2 days, as signposted on site.

CHURCH LANE will be closed to the north of the north junction with Chitty Lane

The alternative route is via Hollow Road and Old Tree Road.

HIGHSTEAD will be closed to the north of Highstead Farm.

The alternative route is via Highstead via Ford Hill, Maypole Lane and Old Tree Road.

The closures are between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day. Only one road will be closed at any one time.

**LONDON ROAD, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to replace the high-friction carriageway surfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on London Road, Canterbury, on or after 2 April 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 8.00 pm and midnight each night.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the zebra crossing, near the junction with the A290 St Dunstan's Street / Whitstable Road.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Rheims Way, St Peter's Place, North Lane, Station Road West and St Dunstan's Street

Westbound via A290 Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, Rough Common Road, Palmers Cross Hill, A2050 Harbledown By-pass and London Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford**COLLER CRESCENT, DARENTH-
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or

near the highway the Kent County Council has intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Collier Crescent, Darenth from Langlands Drive for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 20th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week from the hours of 08:00hrs - 17:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Carriageway micro surfacing works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover**GLEN ROAD, KINGSDOWN, DEAL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway pre-patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Glen Road, Kingsdown, Deal, on or after 2 April 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Carlton Road and Sea Road.

The alternative route is via Carlton Road, Edward Road and Sea Road.

HIGHWAYS - East Kent**VARIOUS ROADS, EAST KENT (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow maintenance works to be carried out in safety on high speed roads, Kent County Council has made an Order imposing a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on the dual carriageway roads shown below, on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 1 year.

The roads affected are as shown below.

A299 THANET WAY - from the M2 Brenley Corner Roundabout to B2190 Minster Road roundabout

A28 CANTERBURY ROAD, THANET - from the A299 Thanet Way to Seamark Road, Birchington

A256 DOVER ROAD - from the junction with the A2 to the Dover Road roundabout

A256 SANDWICH BYPASS - from Stoner Cut Bridge to the A257 Sandwich Road Roundabout

LYDDEN HILL, LYDDEN, DOVER - from the junction with Swanton Lane to the junction with the A2

A2042 ROMNEY MARSH ROAD, ASHFORD

- From the A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road to Roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road
- From the roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road to the existing 40 mph speed restriction 250 metres from the Forestall Meadow Roundabout
- From the roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road to the existing 40 mph speed restriction 250 metres south of the roundabout with the B2229 Norman Road

A20 FOUGERES WAY, ASHFORD - from the A20 Maidstone Road (Drivers Roundabout) to the roundabout at Junction 9 of the M20

A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD - From Orchard Heights Roundabout to the junction with Sandhyhurst Lane.

This Order is in force on the respective roads when the relevant speed limit signs are displayed on site.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham**DEAN LANE, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Dean Lane, Meopham from Swift Farm.

The Order will become effective on 16th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: White Hill Road and Oakenden Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT openreach to gain safe access to telegraph pole.

**RAPHAEL ROAD, GRAVESEND-
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on

Raphael Road, Gravesend between its junction with Waterton Road and Denton Street.

The Order will become effective on 16th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 7 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Range Road, Elliott Street, Lower Road, Mark Lane and Waterton Avenue

The purpose of the closure is to allow safe access to wet well.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks**BANK LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Bank Lane outside property known as Hopefield.

The Order will become effective on 15th April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 16th April 2012 and will last for approx 5 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: London Road, Mill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a new gas supply.

DARTFORD ROAD, FARNINGHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has Made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Dartford Road, Farningham from the Junction of High Street to Junction Main Road.

The Order will become effective on 7th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 7th April 2012 and will last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Main Road and High Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a replacement BT cable.

MALTHOUSE ROAD, ASH CUM RIDLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Malthouse Road.

The Order will become effective on 1st April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 2nd April 2012 and last 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pease Hill, Ash Lane, Hatcham Green Lane, Plaxtol Green Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a UK Power network cable.

YORKS HILL, SUNDRIDGE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Yorks Hill, Sundridge between Ide Hill Road and Wheatshaf Hill.

The Order will become effective on 01 April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 02 April 2012 and will last approx 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Ide Hill Road and Wheatshaf Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate electrical maintenance.

**VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF EASTBOUND TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting Eastbound vehicular traffic on Leydenhatch Lane and Newbarn Road Swanley for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 01 April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 02 April 2012 and will last approx 25 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Birchwood Road, London Road, Bartholomew Road and Swanley Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a safer working environment for all highway users.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway**BANK STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bank Street, Hythe, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 3 weeks.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Chapel Street and the High Street.

The alternative route is via A259 Prospect Road and High Street, which re-opens from 16 April 2012.

The Order prohibiting driving along High Street, Hythe between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm will be suspended, whilst Bank Street is closed.

**CASTLE HILL AVENUE, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to connect a new water supply to a property re-development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting southbound through traffic on Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, on or after 2 April 2012 for up to 4 days, or until the works have been completed.

The southbound carriageway of the road will be closed between the junctions with Ingles Road and Bouverie Road West.

The alternative route is via Shorncliffe Road, Earls Avenue and Bouverie Road West.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Castle Hill Avenue will be suspended from the junction with Ingles Road to the point of closure, for access only.

**ST JOHN'S ROAD, NEW ROMNEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install a new water meter and pipework, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St John's Road, New Romney, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A259 Lydd Road.

The alternative route is via A259 Lydd Road and West Street.

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,

on 08458 247 800 (local rate)

or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

**A2 HIGH STREET, NEWINGTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on the A2 High Street, Newington, from 2 April until 22 April 2012 inclusive, or until the works have been completed.

The A2 will be closed between the junctions with Playstool Road and Bull Lane.

The alternative motorway route is via A2 Keycol Hill, A249 Maidstone Road, M2 from Junction 5 to Junction 4, A278 Hoath Way, A2 London Road and A2 High Street.

The alternative route for non-motorway traffic is via A2 Keycol Hill, A249 Maidstone Road, Detling Hill, Sittingbourne Road, Bearsted Road, Penenden Heath Road, Sandling Lane, A229 Running Horse Roundabout, Chatham Road, Maidstone Road, A230 Horsted Way, Maidstone Road, A2 Best Street, Brookside, Union Street, New Road, Chatham Hill, Rainham Road, Watling Street, Sovereign Boulevard, Watling Street, London Road and High Street.

A 7.5 Tonne weight restriction (except for access) will be imposed on the following roads, when the relevant signage is in place:

Spade Lane, Mill Lane, Breach Lane, Lower Hartill Hill, Playstool Road, Church Lane, Bull Lane, Callaways Lane and Rook Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

**EDGAR ROAD, MARGATE (RESTRICTIONS ON WAITING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To enable carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order restricting waiting on Edgar Road, Margate, on or after 2 April 2012 for up to 2 days, or until the works have been completed.

Waiting will be prohibited between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm on the sections of Edgar Road as follows:

On the west side from the existing double yellow lines near the junction with Ethelbert Crescent to the existing double yellow lines outside St Paul's Church

On the east side from existing double yellow lines near the junction with Ethelbert Crescent to the existing double yellow lines outside number 35 (Surrey Court).

**STAFFORDSHIRE STREET, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Staffordshire Street, Ramsgate, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 2 days, between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative routes are

Northbound via Turner Street, Broad Street and Hardres Street.

Southbound via Hardres Street, Belmont Street, King Street, Brunswick Street and Turner Street.

There will be no through access along Union Street.

**ST JOHN'S ROAD AND PRINCES CRESCENT, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St John's Road and Princes Crescent, Margate, on or after 2 April 2012, as described below.

ST JOHN'S ROAD will be closed at the junction with Victoria Road from 2 April 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of St John's Road, between the junctions with Princes Crescent and Victoria Road' to allow traffic to exit via Princes Crescent.

PRINCES CRESCENT will then be closed at its northern junction with Victoria Road from 16 April 2012 for up to 2 weeks.

A One-way Traffic Order will be imposed in respect of Princes Crescent, so that traffic can only drive southbound towards Victoria Road.

The alternative route for northbound traffic is via St John's Road.

The timings of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may be affected by weather and ground conditions.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET)
(SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers has made an Order under Sections 1(1), 2(1) and 2(2), Sections 81 to 84, of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, the effect of which has introduced reduced speed limits to be enforced on the approaches to the "Lord of the Manor" roundabouts, the circulatory carriageways and the link road between them, to 40 mph.

The length of the existing 40 mph speed limit on the A299 Canterbury Road East has been extended in a westerly direction from its current boundary adjacent to its junction with Windermere Avenue, to its southern roundabout junction with "Lord of the Manor"; and the length of the existing 40 mph speed limit on Sandwich Road has been extended in a north easterly direction from a point 23 metres north east of the mid point of its junction with Cliffs End Road to the southern roundabout at the junction commonly known as "Lord of the Manor".

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with the Kent County Council to progress the legal procedures necessary to implement the proposed measures.

A copy of the Order which shall come into operation on Monday 2nd April 2012, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Thanet District Council Offices, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ, and affected Parish and Town Councils which are: Cliffsend PC, Manston PC and Ramsgate TC.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling, between the entrance to the short stay car park (adj. 107 High Street) and the junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 22nd April 2012 for the dates shown in schedule 1 below, between the hours of 6.00am to 3.00pm or until the time stated next to that date. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place for the durations of the events. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for High Street, West Malling will be via A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Farmers Market, the Christmas lights switch on and the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations to take place.

For further information please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Sunday 22nd April 2012 (until 5.00pm)	Sunday 28rd October 2012
Sunday 29th April 2012 (until 5.00pm)	Sunday 25th November 2012 (until 8.00pm)
Sunday 27th May 2012	Sunday 16th December 2012
Sunday 4th June 2012 (until 6.00pm)	Sunday 23rd December 2012
Sunday 24th June 2012	Sunday 27th January 2013
Sunday 22nd July 2012	Sunday 24th February 2013
Sunday 26th August 2012	Sunday 24th March 2013
Sunday 23rd September 2012	

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ROBIN HOOD LANE & TUNBURY AVENUE, AYLESFORD)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Robin Hood Lane between Fostington Way and Tunbury Avenue and to prevent traffic turning right into Tunbury Avenue from A2045 Walderslade Woods on or after

Tuesday 3rd April 2012 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for Robin Hood Lane is via Tunbury Avenue, A2045 Walderslade Woods, Fostington Way and for the no right turn into Tunbury Avenue is via A2045 Walderslade Woods to the roundabout and return on A2045 Walderslade Woods and turn left into Tunbury Avenue.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to facilitate planing, resurfacing and application of high friction surfacing and to install ducting in the carriageway. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Padgham on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SANDY LANE, IGHTHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sandy Lane from Ismays Road to Back Lane on or after Thursday 5th April 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Back Lane, Ismays Road.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Mandy Richards of Ashted Plant Hire Company Ltd on 03700 500792.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGHFIELD ROAD SOUTHBOROUGH)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Highfield Road Southborough on or after Tuesday 3rd April 2012 when required for a period of up to 1 day off peak 09.30- 15.30 or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via upper Grosvenor Road, Meadow Road, Goods Station Road, Grosvenor Road, A26 St Johns Road A26 London Road Yew Tree Road and High Brooms and vice versa.

KCC highways and Transportation apologise for any inconvenience caused by the essential carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, please contact Jonathan Dean on 08458 2470800.

**John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ**

Dated 1st April 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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To place your legal notices

call **01303 817056**

or email **sallie.payne@archant.co.uk**

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WATER INDUSTRY ACT 1991



SOUTH EAST WATER LIMITED
REVISED TEMPORARY BAN ON WATER USE

South East Water gives notice that, pursuant to sections 76 and 76A-C of the Water Industry Act 1991, it prohibits from the beginning of 5 April 2012, throughout its entire area of supply (extending across parts of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Berkshire), the following uses of potable water supplied by it (that is water treated to drinkable standards):

(a)	Watering a garden using a hosepipe
(b)	Cleaning a private motor-vehicle (or a trailer for such a vehicle) using a hosepipe
(c)	Watering plants on domestic or other non-commercial premises using a hosepipe
(d)	Cleaning a private leisure boat using a hosepipe
(e)	Filling or maintaining a domestic swimming or paddling pool
(f)	Drawing water, using a hosepipe, for domestic recreational use
(g)	Filling or maintaining a domestic pond (manmade or natural) using a hosepipe
(h)	Filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain (including a cascade or any other display of moving water, and includes filling by permanent plumbing)
(i)	Cleaning walls, or windows, of domestic premises using a hosepipe
(j)	Cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe
(k)	Cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe

The following will be exempted from the restriction:

- i) using a hosepipe in a garden or for cleaning walls or windows of domestic premises, paths or patios, a private leisure boat or an artificial outdoor surface, where such use is necessary for health and safety reasons;
 - ii) watering a garden attached to a domestic dwelling or watering plants on domestic premises using a hosepipe, by people with severe mobility problems who hold a current Blue Badge as issued by their local authority;
 - iii) using a hosepipe to clean a private motor vehicle, private leisure boat or walls and windows of domestic premises, where this is done as a service to customers in the course of a business;
 - iv) using a hosepipe to water an area of grass or outdoor artificial surfaces used for sport or recreation, where this is required in connection with a national or international sports event;
 - v) drip or trickle irrigation watering systems, fitted with a pressure reducing valve and a timer, that are not handheld, that place water drip by drip directly onto the soil surface or beneath the soil surface, without any surface run off or dispersion of water through the air using a jet or mist;
 - vi) maintaining a domestic swimming pool with a water conservation recycling system;
- Customers should note that a number of concessions earlier proposed have been withdrawn.

For the meaning of certain terms used in this notice and specific exceptions from the prohibitions, see the Water Use (Temporary Bans) Order 2010. Amongst other things, that Order defines:

- (a) using a hosepipe to include both drawing water supplied by South East Water at the time of the prohibition through a hosepipe from a container and also filling or partly filling a container with such water by means of a hosepipe;
- (b) garden to include a park, gardens open to the public, a lawn, a grass verge, an area of grass used for sport or recreation, an allotment garden as defined in section 22(1) of the Allotments Act 1922, any area of allotment used for non-commercial purposes and any other green space; and
- (c) health and safety to include removing or minimising any risk to human or animal health or safety and preventing or controlling the spread of causative agents or disease.

The topping up of an established domestic pond is also permitted if the welfare of fish in the pond is at risk.

For the purposes of the prohibitions relating to the use of a hosepipe, the prohibitions apply whether or not any device such as a sprinkler is attached to the hosepipe.

Any person who contravenes any of these prohibitions is guilty of an offence, and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Representations concerning any of these prohibitions may be made in writing by 4 April 2012 to Lee Dance at South East Water, Rocfort Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5AH. If, as a result of such representations, South East Water decides to vary any terms of the prohibition, a further notice will be published. Subject to this, the prohibitions will have effect from the beginning of 5 April 2012 and will remain in force until further notice.

Further details concerning the prohibitions and actions concerning the current drought may be found on South East Water's website at www.southeastwater.co.uk

South East Water Limited Rocfort Road Snodland Kent ME6 5AH

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003

Cave Direct Limited is applying for a new premises licence for Unit B10, Larkfield Trading Estate, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield, Kent, ME20 6SW.

The application is made to Tonbridge & Malling Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Kill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ.

I am applying for the following:

- (1) To pack boxes of beer between the hours of 7.00 and 17.00 to be sent to residential addresses.

Should you wish to make representations to the Council, it must be in writing and/or can view our application by contacting the council on 01732 876 368 or at Licensing.services@tmbc.gov.uk by 25.04.2012.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

WE, Vinay & Dharmista Patel are applying for a variation of premises licence at the S&G Ltd T/A Halling News of 18 High Street Halling Kent ME2 1BX

The application is made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf Dock Road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR. I am applying for the following (1) change of trading name (2) change of layout (3) Extension of the hours for the sale of alcohol (5am until 23:00)

Should wish to make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view our application by contacting the council on 01634 337 107 or 337 108 by 18th April 2012

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Notice of an Application
for the Grant of a Premises Licence
(Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that Bilsington Village Hall Committee has applied to **Ashford Borough Council for the GRANT of PREMISES LICENCE** for Sale of alcohol, plays, films and indoor sporting events, live and recorded music, dancing. Sunday to Thursday 0900-2300 Friday and Saturday 0900-0000 for the premises Bilsington Village Hall situated at Bilsington.

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by: 24th April 2012. Dated this 27th day of March 2012.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

- 1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- 2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
- 3. The application is for a Major Development.
- 4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
- 6. This application may be of wider public interest.
- 7. This application will affect trees covered by a tree preservation order

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE
FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE
BY 16 APRIL 2012

SW/07/1248:
Demolition of existing light industrial workshop and erection of a dwelling - 36- 37 St Johns Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0144:
Two storey side extension and internal alterations - 7 Muddy Lane, SITTINGBOURNE, **REASON 4**

SW/12/0252:
Listed Building Consent to demolish part of courtyard wall and to rebuild to match existing - ACF & ATC Cadets Building, Stone Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0287:
Extended balconies and new conservatories - 22 Waterside Close, Upper Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0328:
Install 3 additional ventilation louvres and enlarge 2 existing louvers - Boughton Telephone Exchange, The Street, BOUGHTON, **REASON 1**

SW/12/0334:
Change of use from private stables to stud & livery farm including erection of 3 foaling boxes, static mobile unit and provision of parking and turning - Oastfield Stud + Livery, Track off Holywell Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To place your notice
here call the
Kent Public Notice
team on
01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE644 IN THE PARISHES OF BILSINGTON AND BONNINGTON

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE644)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1)
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath AE644 between Bilsington Bridge and Bonnington Bridge from the 23rd March 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 23rd April 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it to repair a collapsed culvert and there is a likelihood of danger to path users.

The alternative route is to head north from Bilsington Bridge and turn right onto the B2067, continue for approximately 1.0 kilometre to the Bonnington Road junction, turn right down Bonnington Road to Bonnington Bridge

For detailed enquiries please contact: Melvyn Twycross

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AU58A ASHFORD)
PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 21st February 2012 The Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to extinguish the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AU58A which commences between number 38 and 40a Silver Hill Road (NGR TR 0333 4240) (Point A) and runs in a west south-westerly direction for 61 metres to NGR TR 0327 4238 (Point B), the route then turns in a south-westerly direction for 106 metres to its termination at the M20 motorway (NGR TR 0320 4230) (Point C). Between points A,B and C on the Order plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of the Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 21st March 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways

Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 1st April 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB432 & CB442 (PART) PETHAM)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 21st February 2012 The Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of (a) that length of public footpath numbered CB432 which commences at NGR TR 1225 5122 (Point A) on the Order plan, and runs in a south south-easterly direction for 198 metres to NGR TR 1231 5103 (Point B), the route then turns in a south-easterly direction for 45 metres to NGR TR 1235 5101 (Point C) where Public Footpath CB432 meets Public Footpath CB442;

And (b) that length of public footpath numbered CB442 which commences at NGR TR 1225 5099 (Point D) and continues in an east north-easterly direction for 97 metres to NGR TR 1235 5101 (Point C); and that length of public footpath CB432 which commences at NGR TR 1235 5101 (Point C) and continues in a south easterly direction for 12 metres to NGR TR 1236 5100 (Point E). Between points A-B-C-D-E on the Order plan.

And to provide a new length of (a) public footpath numbered CB432 with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at NGR TR 1225 5122 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for 236 metres to NGR TR 1225 5099 (Point D);

And a new length of (b) public footpath numbered CB442 with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at NGR TR 1225 5099 (Point D) and continues in a south-easterly direction for 72 metres to NGR TR 1231 5094 (Point F). Between points A-D-F on the Order plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 21st March 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the

ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 1st April 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR154 IN THE PARISH OF SEAL

PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR154
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath SR154, between the eastern end of Green Lane NGR TQ 559 518 and the junction with Underriver House Road from the 16th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 16th October 2012.

The path is to be closed because a depot associated with the pipeline construction is to be located on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Nicky Biddall

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE RESTRICTED BYWAY SR286 IN THE PARISHES OF SEVENOAKS WEALD & SEAL

RESTRICTED BYWAY SR286
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Restricted Byway SR286, between The Coach House, Underriver (NGR TQ 550 524) and the junction with Public Footpath SR287 (NGR TQ 547 516) from the 16th April 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 16th October 2012.

The route will be closed because works to excavate and build a pipeline are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Nicky Biddall

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR392, MT15, MT17A, MT16, AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS, MT49 AND MT50

IN THE PARISH OF SHIPBOURNE
PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR392, MT15, MT17A, MT16 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS MT49 AND MT50
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths MR392 at NGR TQ 578 517, MT15 at NGR TQ 583 512, MT17A at NGR TQ 583 512, MT16 at NGR TQ 588 511, and Public Bridleways MT49 at NGR TQ 583 509 and MT50 at NGR TQ 589 509 from 16th April 2012

The Routes will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The Routes will be closed because works are planned on them and there is a likelihood of danger to users

Alternative routes will be signed for the duration of the works.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 1st April 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Black Horse Inn, Pilgrims Way, Thurnham, Maidstone**

Applicant: **John Freeman**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Grand, The Leas, Folkestone**

Applicant: **Michael Stainer**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **St Augustines Priory, Priory Road, Bilsington**

Applicant: **Elizabeth Lawson**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Best Western Donnington Manor Hotel, London Road, Duntun Green**

Applicant: **Ronnie Chorian**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
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PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/11/02109/FUL: 4-5 Pound Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BZ Use of land to provide outdoor seating area in connection with restaurant. **Applicant: Mr Betham** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00069/FUL: 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2HH The insertion of fixed sash window with lower panel obscured to rear elevation (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mrs Mirtorabi** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00104/ADV: Habitat Designs Limited, St Andrews Close, Canterbury, CT1 2RL Two non-illuminated wall-mounted signs. **Applicant: 99p Stores Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/00165/ADV: 14 Butchery Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JR Non-illuminated fascia sign and externally illuminated hanging sign. **Applicant: Optical Express** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00179/FUL: Little Breach Farm, Elham Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6LN Construction of pond for wildlife. **Applicant: Mr Thurley** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA/12/00185/FUL: Newnham Farmhouse, Grove Road, Wickhambreau, CT3 1SQ Erection of orangery to rear and replacement windows to dwelling, erection of swimming pool house, stable block and replacement carport with accommodation over and reconstruction of barn. **Applicant: Mr Butcher** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA/12/00186/LB: Newnham Farmhouse, Grove Road, Wickhambreau, CT3 1SQ Erection of orangery to rear, replacement windows and internal alterations to dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Butcher** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/12/00207/FUL: 10 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DP Replacement of hardstanding with permeable block paving. **Applicant: Mr P Bell** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00250/FUL: 7 and 8 All Saints Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2AU First-floor rear extension to No 7 and insertion of rooflight to replace first-floor flank window in No 8. **Applicant: Ms J Burgis and Mrs H Chappell** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/00286/LB: 16-18 Oxford Street, Whitstable, CT5 1DD Variation of condition 02 (approved drawings); alterations in respect of disabled access and siting of plant and machinery and condition 06 (materials) of planning permission CA/10/01526/FUL (Retrospective application) **Applicant: J D Wetherspoon PLC** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00349/FUL: Kenfield House, Kenfield Road, Petham, CT4 5RN Alterations to front boundary wall, fence and gates to facilitate new vehicular access. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Henderson** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/00352/FUL: Land adjacent to The Prince Albert PH, Sea Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AN Erection of two-storey dwelling incorporating accommodation in the roof space. **Applicant: Mr D Taylor** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00353/LB: 25 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Extensions and internal and external alterations to dwelling. **Applicant: Mr D Matthew** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/12/00357/FUL: Chequers Barn, High Street, Fordwich, CT2 0DX Conversion of ancillary residential buildings to a single residential unit. **Applicant: Mr S Waitt** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00367/ADV: Newingate House, 16-17 Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury Exterior signage and illumination. **Applicant: GAU The American University** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00369/FUL: 2 Woolage Green Road, Woolage Green, Womenswold, CT4 6SF Erection of single-storey extension to side and dormer window to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Hobson** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00374/FUL: 59 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NE Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr D Jones** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00375/FUL: 2 Pear Tree Cottage, Stodmarsh Road, Wickhambreau, CT3 4BA Two and single-storey side and rear extension to dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Peries** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00377/FUL: Yew Tree Farm, Stone Street, Petham, CT4 5PL Retention of conservatory to outbuilding. **Applicant: Mr R Cronin** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

CA/12/00388/FUL: 10 Beverley Road, Canterbury, CT2 7EN Replacement bay window to front elevation and installation of dormer to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Ms Watkins** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00391/FUL: 53 Charles Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5HW Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mrs V Inwood** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00396/FUL: From Hampton Pier car park to Red House Farm on Thornden Wood Road, Herne Bay Laying of underground electricity cables including area of temporary storage of plant and machinery. **Applicant: Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd** Reason: Major development.

CA/12/00404/FUL: 14 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LH Conversion of ground-floor from retail shop (Use Class A1) into a two-bedroom self-contained residential apartment and associated alterations. **Applicant: Mr Mark Walker** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00409/FUL: 25 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP First-floor extension to side of dwelling, single-storey rear extension and balcony at second floor level. **Applicant: Mr D Matthew** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00422/FUL: The Queens Head, 44 William Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5PB Conversion of public house to residential, comprising of four apartments and two houses. **Applicant: Mr J Bevan** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/00514/LB: The Queens Head, 44 William Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5PB Alterations to listed building associated with residential conversion. **Applicant: Mr J Bevan** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 23 April 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 30 March 2012

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Sections 15 and 16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011:-

- from 10 July to 6 August 2012 on Mondays to Fridays inclusive between 9am and 4pm any person interested on application to the Head of Finance and Governance, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS may inspect and make copies of the accounts of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2012 and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating thereto; and
- on or after 7 August 2012 until the completion of the audit, the District Auditor, Andy Mack, 4th Floor, "B" Block, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ at the request of any local government elector for the area to which the accounts relate, will give the elector or their representative an opportunity to question him about the accounts, and any such elector or representative may attend before the Auditor and make objection to any of the accounts. No objection shall be made by or on behalf of a local government elector unless the District Auditor has previously received written notice of the proposed objection and of the grounds on which it is to be made. Where an elector sends a notice to the Auditor for this purpose they shall at the same time send a copy of the notice to the Council.

Lee M. Colyer CFFA
Head of Finance & Governance (s151 Officer)
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS
April 2012



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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00714/HOUSE Ryecroft Chapel Lane, Benenden
- Removal of conservatory and replace with sun room (LB) (CA)

12/00717/LBC Ryecroft Chapel Lane, Benenden
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of conservatory and replace with sun room (LB)

12/00807/FUL Gate House Farm Fairmans Lane, Brencley
- Erection of stables and horsewalker and change of use of existing agricultural buildings to equine for domestic and commercial use (PROW)

12/00834/FUL Garbos 1 - 3 Lime Hill Road, Culverden
- Change of use of ground floor from A1 (hairdressing salon) to A3 (cafe) (CA)

12/00816/FUL Pearsons Cottage/Oakleaves Cottage Cranbrook Road, Frittenden
- Alterations to both cottages to form one dwelling (CA) (LB)

11/03707/LBC Bushes Farmhouse Churn Lane, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to create new shower room (LB)

12/00688/HOUSE The Barn Hook Green Farm, Lamberhurst
- Installation of rectangular window in side elevation of annex (LB)

12/00720/HOUSE 3 Berkeley Place Berkeley Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Parking area to courtyard (LB) (CA)

12/00721/LBC 3 Berkeley Place Berkeley Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Parking area to courtyard (LB)

12/00773/HOUSE 52 Warwick Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Replace existing 11.500m section of close boarded boundary fencing fronting onto Warwick Park with new metal railings to match the existing front entrance gates (CA)

12/00799/CEU India Jane 70 Mount Pleasant Road, Park
- Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) - Use of basement and first floor rooms for retail ancillary storage (CA)

12/00839/CAC Abbeyfield Society Ltd Abbeyfield House, Park
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing garage (CA)

12/00780/LBC Chapel Pembury Hospital, Pembury
- Listed Building Consent - Remove the pews and organ from the chapel (LB)

12/00815/LBC Rammell House Cranbrook School The Hill, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of existing roof materials (Peg tiles, slate, plain clay tiles and lead), timber battenning and weathering. Replace with breather membrane, tanalised battens and Peg tiles, slate, plain clay tiles and lead. Repair works to chimney (LB)

12/00817/FUL Wyndhurst The Street, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Sub-division of existing dwelling to form two separate dwellings with separate parking and amenity areas (CA)

12/00829/FUL Cramp Institute High Street, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Disabled ramp to front entrance (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 31 March 2012



THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/2101/S - LAND AT, FOREST HILL, TOVIL, KENT - Outline planning permission for the erection of fourteen zero Carbon Houses with access, layout, scale and appearance to be considered at this stage and all other matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/2190/N - PILGRIMS RETREAT, HOGBARN LANE, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1NZ - Variation of condition 2 of permission MA/03/2343 (extension of the holiday park's season from 8 months to 10 months) to allow the use of touring caravans, tents and static caravans for holiday purposes all year round (excluding the 18 permitted residential static caravans) as shown on A4 site location plan received on 22nd December 2011. **Reason: 9**

MA/12/0185/S - TEASAUER STABLES, BOCKINGFORD LANE, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DP - Proposed construction of a replacement grass surfaced trackway approximately 55 metres in length and 2.5 metres in width, reinforced with a recycled polyethylene grid. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/0315/S - HOMEWELL BARN, NORTON ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3LS - Erection of a replacement garage to be used as a play room. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0341/S - UNIT 15 WHEELBARROW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PATTENDEN LANE, MARDEN, KENT - An application for minor material amendments to MA/08/2439 to surface water drainage and landscaping. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0360/S - THE BARN, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2AP - Listed Building Consent for relocation of staircase and minor alterations to floor layouts. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0437/S - CLIFF HOUSE, CLIFF HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NQ - Erection of a detached double garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0439/N - 261, WILLINGTON STREET, MAIDSTONE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8EP - Erection of a one bedroom annexe building. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0441/N - THE LODGE, LENHAM COURT, OLD HAM LANE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2LS - An application for a new planning permission to replace an extant planning permission MA/09/0467 (loft conversion including the installation of two dormer windows and erection of detached double garage (resubmission of MA/08/1273)) to allow a further three years in which to implement the development. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0444/N - BYFRANCE, OTHAM LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8SJ - Erection of a triple bay cartledge (alternative to garage approved under MA/05/1282). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0447/S - SCUFFITS, WATER LANE, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0SG - Erection of single storey garden room extension and raised flagstone patio area. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0476/N - THE FLOWER POT, 96, SANDLING ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 2RJ - Listed building consent for removal of internal stud walls and w.c. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- Application is Major Development.
- Application does not accord with the Local Plan.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **15th April 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 1st April 2012

To place your notice here call the
Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSIONNOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010KCC/TM/0075/2012 - Proposed development at
Tarmac Ltd, Ham Hill Quarry, Snodland, Kent, ME6
5LATarmac Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for
planning permission for an Aggregate Recycling
Facility and a Concrete Batching Plant together with
amendments to the currently approved quarry
restoration plans.NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING
AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990KCC/TM/0038/2012 - Proposed development at
Ryars Primary School, Birling Road, Ryars, West
Malling, Kent, ME19 5LSKCC Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to
Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for
planning permission for the provision of new modular
two classroom building. The proposed development
does not accord with the provisions of the
development plan in force in the area in which the
land to which the application relates is situated. The
proposed development is adjacent to a Conservation
Area and may affect its character and/or appearance.You may view these applications at Tonbridge &
Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson
Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010KCC/TW/0524/2011 - Proposed development at
Westdene, Whetsted Road, Five Oak Green,
Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6SDCLC Construction Ltd is applying to Kent County
Council for planning permission for change of use of
the land from breakers yard and storage of damaged
vehicles and trailers to site office and open storage
with ancillary operations.You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells
Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge
Wells, Kent, TN1 2ABAlternatively, details of the applications can be
viewed on Kent County Council's website at
www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices
in Maidstone at the address below during all
reasonable office hours.We accept comments online via our website, by email
to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to
Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council,
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone,
Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this
notice. Please quote the application reference
number and note that comments may be drawn to the
attention of Council Members, the applicant and other
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Borough Council website.Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 1 April 2012It pays to
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Kathleen on 5th March 2012. A
much loved sister for Matthew
and Granddaughter for Irene,
Sue and Rodney.

HOWSON

Our beautiful Princess Freya
Erynne born to Charlene and
Christopher on 8th March
weighing 7lbs 13ozs.

PAGE

Keleigh and John celebrate the
birth of their son Logan Bailey
Page on 10th March 2012.

SPINKS

Terry and Diane of Canterbury
are thrilled to announce the
arrival of their son Billy on 19th
March at Queen Elizabeth the
Queen Mother hospital weighing
7lb 2oz. Welcome to the world
our precious son

DEATHS

PLUCK

Bob Pluck- Local Jazz
Musician. Died 21st March
2012. Service to be held at
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April 2012 at 12.40 pmTo place your notice
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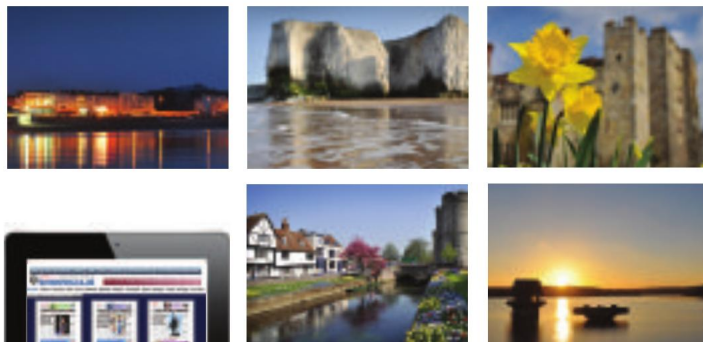
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Gino D'Acampo reveals why we might be hearing a lot more of him

SEE PAGE 53



MOVING ON UP

VW ventures into the city-car market and blends style with fun

SEE PAGE 67

Kent Weekend

Runway to Hell

Nightmarish visions of a new airport

SEE PAGE 61





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THE INTERVIEW

Gino D'Acampo

Italian who's loving the heat

Joe Bill talks to celebrity chef Gino D'Acampo ahead of his visit to the BBC's Good Food Show

THE cream of the UK's culinary elite heads to Kent during the next fortnight for a festival of cooking. Glow, the new entertainment venue at Bluewater shopping centre, is hosting this spring's BBC Good Food Show UK, the first time it has been in the county.

Among those present will be Saturday Kitchen's James Martin, wine expert Olly Smith and celebrity chef Gino D'Acampo.

The former king of the 'I'm A Celeb' jungle will be signing his new book for fans as well as providing an insight into his cooking skills.

"The people will be able to sample some of the dishes and the wines – they can see cooking demonstrations, so they can get a lot of tips out of it," said D'Acampo.

"It is a chance for them to meet their favourite cook on television. It's also a good chance for us, too, because it is always a pleasure to see them."

The Italian, known for his passion for the food of his home nation, has been highly sought after since winning the ITV reality show in 2009 and since become a household name across the UK.

He said: "I am very busy at the moment. I have just finished a new project in schools with a company called Innovate Services. Together we have designed 12 pasta dishes which will go into about 120 different schools around the country. They can get a bit of authentic Italian flavour in school, but also it is nice and healthy."

D'Acampo, 35, has also entered the world of the smartphone, having launched his own app this year.

He said: "It's called Eating Italian – we have about 25 to 30 video recipes done exclusively for the app. There are pictures to make the meals and it is also a way to learn a bit of the Italian language. There are all the words like spelling linguini properly, or tagliatelle and things like that. It is very helpful, it is not too expensive, it is beautifully shot, so it is all good."

Like many other celebrity chefs, D'Acampo has his own range of cookware and a number of



cookbooks, including his latest offering, Italian Home Baking, which he will be signing at Bluewater.

He said: "The book is all to do with stuff you have to bake, from breads to biscuits to Italian pastas to Italian pizzas... everything you need."

"But my favourite dish would be anything to do with pasta – a bit of pasta with cherry tomatoes, a bit of basil and some extra virgin olive oil... to me that is simple food at its best."

The best pasta for me is the very thin penne, the tube with pieces of mozzarella, nice and simple."

D'Acampo grew up in Naples and inherited his love of food from his grandfather Giovanni, himself a head chef.

The young protégé attended the Luigi de Medici Catering College before setting off to find work elsewhere. He said: "I was ready for an adventure, so I travelled all over Europe,

employed in different kitchens, learning about life and love. I ended up working for the Italian Stallion himself as head chef at Sylvester Stallone's Mambo King restaurant in Marbella.

"While I was in Spain, I met and fell in love with my beautiful English wife and moved with her to London in 1995."

And it is his travels that continue to help the chef come up with new ideas for the kitchen.

He said: "It happens that when you travel, or when you go to someone's house for dinner, or even to other restaurants, I always carry a small notepad with me."

"So if I try something new I think 'OK, I like this idea' and go back home or to my development kitchen at the office and I see if I can do something new with it – this is how it happens."

"You try it on the family first and then a

couple of friends and then you see if the flavours work together – then you put it into the book."

"Sometimes someone gives you a recipe and says 'Gino, I tried this one and I think it's fantastic'. So you try it and tweak it a little and then you have got it. It is a very simple process."

Since the jungle, where he starred alongside Katie Price and Samantha Fox, D'Acampo's reputation has rocketed, although he is quick to play down his increased fame.

"Honestly, I had a lot of work before I went in the jungle, but of course it was great," he said. "I already had my books, my pots and pans in supermarkets, and all my ideas were there. It did help because it was in front of an evening audience who were not really familiar with me."

"We get stopped when we are out shopping, especially in the food-shopping environment. They see a chef, they take advantage of coming over and asking questions and food questions. And you know what – it is great!"

However, don't expect to see the chef on skates or in reality sequins any time soon: "I think I am done with the reality shows. No dancing on ice and all that – it would require too much training."

However, there is one conquest D'Acampo would like to make outside the food industry: he wants to write a hit record.

The big Oasis fan said: "Yes I do. No laughing – that is not fair! I play the guitar and have played it since I was nine or 10. I used to go to boy scouts and learned how to play the guitar. Everybody who plays an instrument comes to try out a little singing. And, like I do with recipes, I have something written down, which I change every two or three months."

"One day it might happen. I really hope so because very rarely it happens to me that I look back and wish I had done that. I have been lucky to do most of the things I have wanted to do. So I hope it will happen."

■ Gino D'Acampo will be appearing at the BBC Good Food Show UK, being held at Glow, Bluewater, from Thursday to Sunday, April 12-15. See www.bluewater.co.uk/whatsonlist for more details.

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EASTER

The perfect time to enjoy spring beauty

WINTER is well and truly over and now's the perfect time to get out and about to explore Kent's beautiful coast and countryside.

Whether it's the joys of the open fields and the downs, or the sandy beaches and cliffs, now is the ideal time of year to stretch your legs and enjoy the sunshine.

Strolling through sun-dappled, bluebell-carpeted woods is one of spring's most magical experiences, and these seasonal flowers are a feature of the county.

Bluebells flower in April and May, although this year's late cold spell may delay them. The National Trust publishes details on its website of where to find the best bluebell walks in its properties – but there are also many sites in natural woodland that

provide a feast for the senses.

Walking is the perfect weekend activity for spring... when it's not too hot for a brisk stroll but also not too cold to sit outside in a beer garden.

The AA publishes two popular books to guide you – 50 walks to country pubs and the hardback 365-pub walks and cycle rides – but it's as much fun to head off down a track you love, or to roam into parts you have never approached before.

How about taking in one of the county's highly-commended vineyards? Most home-grown vintages come from the area around The Weald, but there also some near Folkestone and Canterbury. Many offer tastings and tours.

Many of the county's stately homes and attractions are opening in time for the Easter break, and with crowds fewer in number than for the rest of the holiday period it's the perfect time

to take it all in at your leisure.

Lambing is synonymous with springtime and many farms will be offering the chance for visitors to see the newcomers to their flock.

And don't forget the origins of the holiday. Many churches have impressive displays, with bouquets as well as re-creations of the scene of the passion of Christ.

When Easter comes, you know summer is just round the corner, too.

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April Events



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6th to 9th
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See website for details of these and other events this year.
 *The Family Ticket price reduction cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

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Pace, passion and petrol Karting capers

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www.buckmore4kids.co.uk
sales@buckmore.co.uk

FOR fun that is fast and furious, you can't beat karting. To experience the thrill of real outdoor karting, head to the award-winning Buckmore Park 1,000m International Outdoor Kart Circuit, just off junction 3 of the M2, where British world champions Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button learnt their trade.

A session at Buckmore, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year, will be a day to remember. The ever-popular exclusive kids' karting parties for ages four to 16 are available for up to 12 drivers, and parties can incorporate a celebration meal



and also be combined with laser-warfare games in the venue's woods. There are Turn Up'n'Drive sessions for ages four to 16 on selected dates throughout

the spring, including the Easter school holidays. There are different speeds and different tracks available for varying ages. Prices start at £15 per session.

It's a riot of Britpop Echo & The Bunnymen, James, Cast, Space...

Quex Park, Birchington
Saturday and Sunday, July 28-29
0844 8889991
www.gigantic.com

ON the Saturday eve of the London Olympics, Quex Park's Sound Island Festival will be paying homage to the best of British with a list right out of the Britpop era. Best known for their singles of the 90s, Sit Down and She's A Star, James have topped charts around the world. Joining them will be Echo & The Bunnymen, whose chart-topping successes include The Killing Moon and Nothing Lasts Forever. Multi-platinum sellers Cast, whose live performances have been described by Noel Gallagher as a "religious experience", will also join the list of 90s legends. Crowds will be treated to performances from, Inspiral Carpets and indie-rockers Space. Sunday's line-up includes Olly Murs and Rizzle Kicks. Festival tickets are on sale now.



The cream of the craft Nationwide exhibitors

Kent College, Canterbury
Friday to Sunday, April 13-15
01622 747325; www.craftinfocus.com

CRAFT In Focus is staging one of its renowned contemporary-craft exhibitions. The group, which has been organising craft fairs at the top end of the creative ladder for 10 years, ended 2011 on a high after record sales at its RHS Garden Wisley event. Craft In Focus selects the finest designer-makers in the UK to exhibit at its shows. Although exhibitors come from all over the country, several local designers also feature. Admission is £4 for adults, £3 for over-65s and free for under-14s.

Healthy but a little grizzled New arrival

Howletts Wild Animal Park
0844 8424647
www.aspinalfoundation.org/howletts

PRIMATE-KEEPERS at Howletts have announced another birth among an endangered species. Asamara, the grizzled leaf monkey, is the 20th

successful birth in the troop at the Bekesbourne park, which is the only group of this species in human care outside its native Java. Keeper Matt Ford said: "Mum and baby are doing very well. The birth provides hope for the survival of these endangered primates in captivity. Deforestation has resulted in habitat loss for the grizzled leaf monkey – only 4 per cent of its original forest habitat remains on Java." There are several recent new-borns at the park – go online to find out more.



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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS

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Sing along to songs of yesteryear and enjoy a cream tea. Must pay for entry into Dickens World, tickets from £8.00, includes Time for Tea show. £5.00 extra for cream tea.

Next show - Wednesday 11th April

For more information visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



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www.dickensworld.co.uk

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Streetdance 2 3D (PG)	We Bought a Zoo (PG)	SENIOR SCREEN
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12A)	Wrath of the Titans 2D (12A)	Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (12A)
The Devil Inside (15)	Wrath of the Titans 3D (12A)	OTHER CINEMA
The Hunger Games (12A)	21 Jump Street (15)	Black Gold (12A)
The Muppets (U)		

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



Images of Ellen Terry A rare opportunity

Smallhythe Place, Tenterden

Wednesday, April 11

01580 762334

www.nationaltrust.org

SMALLHYTHE Place, the small house with the big charm, has a rare treat in store for visitors. Staff will be revealing rarely-seen personal possessions from the Victorian actress Ellen Terry's collection of books, photographs and letters. Terry was a renowned actress in the late 1800s and early 1900s and lived at Smallhythe Place from 1899 to 1928.

The attraction is owned by the National Trust, which will bring Ellen's story alive through short talks on the items.

Paul Meredith, house manager, said: "We also hope to include examples of her children's works, such as her daughter Edy's sketchbook of costume designs."

Active Easter Egg action and spring walks

Penshurst Place, Tonbridge

Sat, March 31-Thu, April 15

01892 870307

www.penshurstplace.com

FAMILIES can look forward to an eggciting holiday as Penshurst Place hosts children's Easter activities and events.

Young visitors can get creative

by trying their hand at craft activities from midday to 4pm as well as a daily spring walk. Come and see Aardvark Productions take its audience on a celebration of the season. The show sees the old man of the woods and his companion as they regale you with tales of Easter and the celebrations of this wonderful season.

Youngsters can also try their hands at egg-rolling, while there will also be a traditional egg-and-spoon race.

All the children's events are included in the normal garden ticket admission.



Wartime ways 1940s-style celebration

KESR, Tenterden

Sat and Sun, May 19-20

01580 765155

www.kesr.org.uk

CAPTURE the atmosphere of the 1940s at the Kent & East Sussex Railway in Tenterden in May when its annual wartime weekend gets into full swing.

Visitors of all ages can come along to experience the Forties lifestyle as the stations along the line turn back the clock with authentic memorabilia, bunting, wartime demonstrations and spivs. There will be flying displays, dancing, singing and a packed programme of entertainment. The old-style trains will run throughout the weekend and each 1940s ticket includes unlimited steam-train travel between Tenterden and Bodiam station all day. History enthusiasts can browse a range of civilian and military vehicles, privately owned and fully restored to their wartime glory.



Two wheels... loads of deals Bikes bash

Orbital Park, Ashford

Monday, April 9

01797 344277

www.elk-promotions.co.uk

THE Ashford Classic Motorcycle Show has become a regular highlight of the Easter weekend – and this year is no different.

Held at Orbital Park's modern

agricultural market, the event attracts a range of classic motorcycles, including rarely-seen American machines. The show bikes are judged during the course of the day, with a ceremony and prize raffle at about 3pm. The Ashford show also incorporates a bike-only autojumble, with garage-clearance stalls available for anyone who'd like to declutter the shed and turn old relics from old wrecks into a little extra cash. These stalls are available for £10 pre-booked. Admission is £5 for adults.

Easter Egg Trail & Easter Holiday Fun



The childhood home of Anne Boleyn



6 - 9 April

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10 - 15 April

- Children can make their own brass rubbings to take home at the drop-in brass rubbing workshop.

www.hevercastle.co.uk

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FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

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Take Hart or even The Hog... high street has a new gem

WHEN you've struggled to get a table at a pub restaurant for weeks on end, you start to wonder what all the fuss is about. A two-for-one deal maybe? Or is it simply that the food is exceptional?

In this case, it's most definitely the latter and, combined with a friendly team who go out of their way to make sure guests are happy, the recently-relaunched White Hart Hotel in Hythe has become the gem of the high street.

This historic inn – built in 1395 – is a family-run hotel, restaurant and freehouse, boasting original features and a stunning 16th-century courtyard.

Low oak beams and an inglenook fireplace make for a cosy feel and while the pictures of celebrities who have enjoyed the chef's cooking could be viewed as slightly cheesy, they actually did have the desired effect and I found myself quietly impressed that the likes of Johnny Depp and Britney Spears admired the person who was about to cook my food.

After ordering a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc (£12.50) we looked at the menu, which consisted of a range of locally-sourced produce, a selection of delicious specials and the type of good, honest dishes that promise bags of flavour

RESTAURANT REVIEW



and the likelihood of leaving you stuffed.

I chose the green-pea-and-goat's-cheese risotto (£6) and my dining companion the soup of the day – roasted red pepper (£4.50).

My guest's soup packed real punch and left that warm feeling of true home-cooked food. My risotto was delicious, although slightly on the large side and I was already worrying about how I was going to manage the next course.

For our main dishes my companion chose the tasty Cajun-style rump steak with hand-cut wedges (£14) and I went for pizza.

While I don't usually choose pizza when I eat out, I defy anyone who sees The Hog (£9) on

the menu and doesn't consider it.

The stone-baked pizza boasts crispy pork belly, black pudding, smoked ham hock, mozzarella, herbs and rocket (£9). I won't lie: I could barely contain myself with excitement.

So it was with great sadness that after four slices of the delicious pizza I had to wave the white flag, slightly annoyed at myself for naively wolfing down every bite of my starter without thinking about what was coming next.

This is when I have to again praise the staff, who, having already impressed me with their friendly attitude, wrapped the pizza in foil so I could take it home to eat later.

Despite being stuffed, the dessert menu looked too tempting to ignore and so we shared a lemon-and-lime posset with raspberry coolie (£4.75). This was the perfect dessert: tasty, fresh and presented beautifully.

The White Hart is a must, whether for a full sit-down meal or a drink in the stunning courtyard and bar.

Our bill came to £50.75, well worth it for food I can only describe as simply outstanding.

Marijke Cox

■ The White Hart Hotel, 71 High Street, Hythe CT21 5AJ. Telephone: 01303 238304; website: www.thewhiteharthythe.co.uk



Jamie Oliver is part of the Bluewater Union

JAMIE Oliver is to open a new restaurant at Bluewater shopping centre, near Dartford.

Together with business partner Chris Bianco, the celebrity chef will launch a Union Jacks restaurant on the lower Thames Walk entrance of the recently-opened Plaza. It will be Oliver's second eatery at the shopping centre after Jamie's Italian opened there last year.

Union Jacks was created by Oliver and Phoenix-based Chris Bianco, who is renowned for his wood-fired pizzas. It combines Bianco's expertise with Oliver's love of top-quality ingredients.

Oliver's restaurants chief, Simon Blagden, said: "We have received fantastic feedback from our first Union Jacks and are excited to be opening at Bluewater.

"It has proved to be a brilliant site for Jamie's Italian since we launched last autumn, so we are delighted that it will become home to Union Jacks."

The restaurant, billed as "where wood-fired flatbreads meet great British flavours", will become the fourth Union Jacks in the UK and is set over 4,000 sq ft.

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Friday 6 April
Saturday 7 April
Sunday 8 April
Monday 9 April

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LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653**

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649**

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to find in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643**

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625**

SARA 31 tall and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTm tall down to earth stable male for poss LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107**

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103**

DEBBIE slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101**

CHARLIE young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051**

LAURA single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curvy figure, WLTm old male for fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049**

TASHA single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tic. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

BLACK female, 33, single mum, loving, honest, caring, kind, seeks professional, kind, honest male, 34-44. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387565**

29YR old female, 3 children, smoker, size 16-18, bubbly, outgoing, likes a laugh, cuddles, seeking likeminded male for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387463**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

32YR old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTm Mr Right if he is out there? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tic. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting, seeking single tactile male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

FEMALE 58, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, cuddly, caring, likes animals, drink, good food, seeks likeminded male to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383669**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383319**

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113**

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

HEATHER 53, brown eyes, size 14, likes nights in/out, socialising, gardening, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387257**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

CLARE attractive, petite, size 8, brown hair, blue eyes, likes theatre, walks, shopping, seeks genuine male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385673**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, stays at home too much and looking for fun male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, extremely easygoing, WLTm genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

DIANE single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351**

RUTH slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349**

SUSIE 45, 5ft 8ins, student, outgoing, easygoing, likes the outdoors, museums, theatre, socialising, seeks likeminded male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385716**

IVY May tall, slim, voluptuous, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049**

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTm kind, friendly, fun loving gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509**

MARY 52, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, fun loving, likes nights in/out, seeks male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385239**

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

LOOKING to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045**

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

MAISY seeks male who likes dogs, country walks, beach, meals out and knows there own mind for a relationship and to build memories, fun loving lady 47. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383733**

SHARON 37yr old attractive female size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385655**

DEBS slim attractive stylish 40 looking for male who is prepared to give me lots of attention for fun times in return. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385653**

JEAN professional nurse attractive and all women! Loves winning and dining seeking white knight who appreciates a real black beauty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385651**

JAN genuinely attractive voluptuous sensual female looking for companionship with loving man, 35-65yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385597**

JULIE blonde blue eyed outgoing female, 31yrs, seeking laidback relationship with likeminded affectionate male, any age/looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385595**

RONNIE 39 looking for fun loving bit on the side! must have a GSOH and own home. I will provide the entertainment! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385593**

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389521**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386803**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTm uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTm male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, no materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTm genuine male for dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 33yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

CARING genuine single mum, GSOH, 41, looking for genuine male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384349**

NIAMH single attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051**

KIM 37, slim blue eyed brunette, divorced with no ties, looking for a genuine convenient friendship/more. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384049**

SARA slim tall blonde bombshell, loves dancing, walking in the rain, WLTm genuine male loves life as much as I do. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384047**

IN for a Penny in for a Pound. Gorgeous curvy figured attractive brunette, bubbly, outgoing and fun, looking for confident romantic companion. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383907**

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

JULIE attractive slim blonde blue eyed beauty, fit with GSOH, professional OHAC, WLTm male for travel, good food/wine and mutual over indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379007**

DIANE successful feisty business woman, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTm him. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hang-ups, WLTm outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879**

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Don't miss

STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

From Detroit to Dartford Motown fest

The Orchard, Dartford
Monday to Saturday, April 2-7
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

EXPERIENCE the energy, excitement, emotion and electricity as the cast of *Dancing In The Streets* performs at The Orchard. After spending three years in the West End, the show heads around the UK, displaying some of the greatest songs and artists in Motown history. This celebration of classic music comes straight from the heart of Detroit and has been directed by Ivor Novello Award-winner Keith Strachan. Songs will include *Heard It Through The Grapevine*; *My Girl*; *Dancing In The Streets*; *I'll Be There*; *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*; *I'm Yours*; and *Stop In The Name Of Love*. Music from the likes of The Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, The Supremes and Marvin Gaye will be featured. Tickets priced from £21.50.



Reality of the ironic comic Rich Hall

The Central Theatre, Chatham
Friday, 27 April, at 7.30pm
01634 338338
www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

HEAVYWEIGHT comic from across the pond Rich Hall is popping into Medway as part of his new UK tour. The Central Theatre in Chatham will host the

American, who is famous for his grouchy and deadpan style of humour. Hall is a well known stand-up over here after years of TV panel-show appearances including *Mock The Week*, *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and *Eight Out Of Ten Cats*. Described as the master of absurd irony and king of rapid-fire wit, Hall will discuss a variety of topics in his own hilarious and unique style, but be warned... he tells it just how it is. Tickets are still available and are priced from £16.



Satire in the city Yes, Prime Minister

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Tuesday to Saturday, April 10-14
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

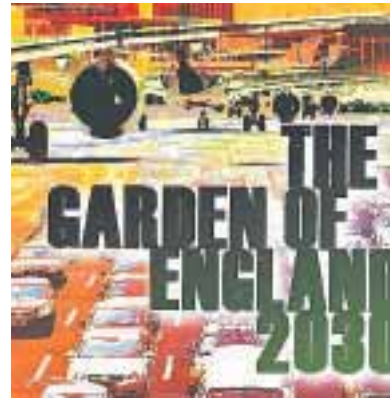
THE West End's top comedy hit *Yes, Prime Minister* is heading to The Marlowe Theatre. Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, the original writers of the classic TV series *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister*, have taken the stage version nationwide after receiving huge acclaim. The production opened at Chichester Festival Theatre before transferring to The Gielgud Theatre in the West End for an extended and popular run. Now heading around the UK, Graham Seed (he of *The Archers*) will play the Prime Minister and V For Vendetta star Michael Simkins is Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby. Tickets are priced from £11 to £29.

Airport battle Artists against the nightmare

Nucleus Art Gallery, Chatham high street
Sat, March 31-Thu, April 5
www.nucleus-arts.com

AN art exhibition in Chatham high street is designed to show the potentially horrific impact that a giant hub airport in the Thames estuary would have on Kent.

A series of stunning images will be on show at Nucleus Art Gallery highlighting the devastating impact that the project would have on Medway and the wider countryside. Nine artists, including Martin Booth, Karl Farrer and Tina Lawlor Mottram, have put together the exhibition, called *Beauty Or The Beast*. The exhibitors call themselves the No Thames Airport Artists Group and aim to "cut through the spin and visualise the case against such a development". Phone 01634 812108 for more information on the exhibition.



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National recognition for family team

A TUNBRIDGE Wells property-lettings business has been recognised in the national Belvoir High Achievers awards, which is open to more than 140 of the company's offices throughout the UK.

Father-and-daughter team John and Sadie Haynes, who run the Belvoir office at 72 Camden Road, were presented with the Belvoir Acquisition Award 2012 at a special ceremony.

The award is in recognition

of the business's highly-successful acquisition of another local lettings agency, which had traded for 10 years and built up a substantial portfolio of both managed and let-only properties.

The deal meant that the size of their business tripled overnight and three members of the former agency's staff transferred into the Belvoir business.

Belvoir chief executive officer Dorian Gonsalves said:

"After possibly one of the busiest years on record for John and Sadie, this award recognises all the successful hard work they put in to acquiring a competitor and greatly increasing market share in their area."

Joining Dorian at the presentation ceremony was TV presenter Gyles Brandreth, who presented the pair with their winner's plaque, alongside Belvoir chairman Mike Goddard.

New homes could be the ideal rental opportunity

WITH rental values strengthening over the past six months and property prices remaining low, investors could get an even better yield on new properties in Maidstone, according to one local letting agent.

Diane Broomham, sales manager at Maidstone-based Sandersons Residential, says investors can achieve yields of between 5 and 6 per cent based on current values at Redrow's Sutton Woods development, which she says is up by as much as 2 per cent compared with six months ago.

The two-, three- and four-bedroom homes at Sutton Woods, off Sutton Road, are all built to Redrow's specification.

As new-build homes, they are well equipped and easy to maintain, and so will appeal to professionals looking to rent.

Ms Broomham said: "There are some fantastic competitive rates now being offered for buy-to-let mortgages, which gives investors the opportunity to consider property as a much better return on their capital compared with some other investment options."

"With more affordable house prices, rising rents and stocks and shares falling below their worth, bricks and mortar are a more solid investment."

"The two-, three- and four-bedroom homes at Sutton Woods have great rental potential. They are brand new and therefore very appealing to tenants as they provide a clean blank canvas as well as contemporary kitchens and bathrooms."

"Rental demand from professionals in the area

is strong and the properties are commutable to London thanks to the close proximity to Maidstone West station, which is 47 minutes from the centre of the capital."

Sandersons Residential estimates that a two-bedroom home priced at £158,950 can achieve a rental income of £700-£775 per month; a three-bedroom house priced from £178,950 an average of £850-£950 per month; and a four-bedroom townhouse priced at £249,950 an average of £1,100-£1,200 per month.

At Sutton Woods, Redrow's contemporary exteriors have spacious interiors and flexible layouts and many of the properties include carpets and flooring throughout and are open for potential purchasers to view.

The homes also offer the potential for further cost-saving on fuel bills, being built to comply with Level 3 of the Government's Code For Sustainable Homes. This means that tenants will benefit from the energy-saving properties of solar-power renewable-energy systems, low-use water-management systems, low-energy-use light fittings and waste-segregation bins to encourage recycling.

Redrow's homes also come with the NHBC 10-year Buildmark warranty and two-year guarantees on all appliances.

Built on the site of the former Senacre College, off Sutton Road, Sutton Woods is a stylish venture incorporating areas of open space while being just a short walk from Mote Park and conveniently close to the town centre.

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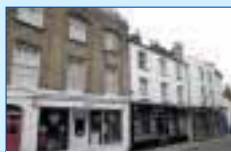
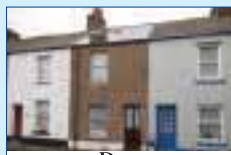
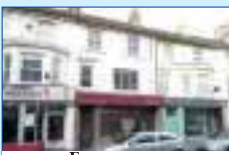
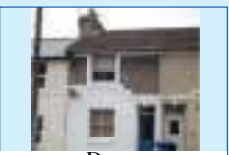
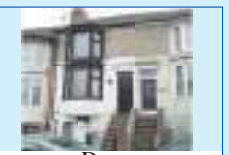
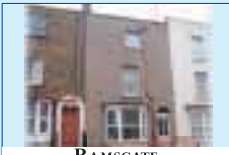
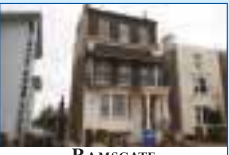
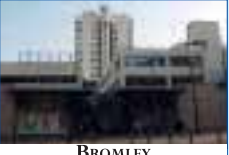
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Mamma Mia Party

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Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar Quote MP5-KOS

£99pp

25 to 28 May, 2012

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

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facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

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- Top Abba Tribute band
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Mamma Mia, What a Party!

Well organised good entertainment, good food – Mrs McConville of Bedfordshire

Good value no kids or teenagers – Mr Long of Sussex

Adults only good fun and atmosphere – Mrs Davies of Nottinghamshire

Friendly atmosphere, good company – no children – Mr Gardiner of Kent

The whole weekend was brilliant. Thank you – Mrs Ferguson of Essex

Entertainment brilliant – well done – Mrs Milsted of Suffolk

Value for money, good service throughout our stay, staff all very helpful and friendly – Mr Scripps of Kent

What GN Holidays' customers said about their Mamma Mia Party at Pontin's Pakefield in March

Italian Lakes: Como & Maggiore

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8 June & 28 Sept, 2012

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- Loch Ness cruise



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- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- Car ferry crossing



First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Mercedes C-Class impresses the judges
- Passat gets best new company car award
- Anticipation growing for Volvo's diesel hybrid



BMW's ugly duckling is hiding real beauty on the inside

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BRITAIN'S roads changed dramatically when the original Mini heralded the Swinging Sixties.

Aside from the standard car, and plush booted versions, there were estate, minivan and stripped-down Moke jeep variants, too.

The former British Motor Corporation is said to have made a loss on this badge engineering though, but expect VW to do all right with its clever new city car and forthcoming Seat and Skoda spin-offs.

Called the Up! – and that's the last time I shall use the marketer's label by the way, it's plain Up from now on – it can't be a mould breaker like the Mini since similar baby hatchbacks are already on the market.

But none really manages to blend practicality, economy, style, cheekiness and driving fun quite so well.

You can realistically drive this city car from city to city too thanks to excellent aerodynamics and a long wheelbase delivering good refinement for such a small vehicle.

And while it's affordable (from £7,995) it's got a VW badge – a bit of premium appeal.

VW says the Up is its first venture into this sector, conveniently forgetting the sawn-off Polo it once sold as the Lupo, but maybe choosing not to compare its cramped cabin with the capacious one in the 3.54m-long Up.

It can carry four adults and give them ample head, leg and elbow room, plus a decent boot.

Buyers might say: "Who needs a second car?" though some might wait for the five-door version due later this year, although access to the three-door's rear seats is not hard.

For now, all models use an all-new low emission 999cc three-cylinder petrol engine. It is surprisingly smooth for that format, while capable of averaging more than 60mpg and rendering a diesel option pretty pointless – don't rule it out though, and VW has promised an all-electric Up for 2013.

But the petrol would do most people fine, whether in 60PS (59bhp) or 75PS (74bhp) format. Neither is a hot rod, but you wouldn't expect it, and VW expects most people to save cash and go for the 60PS.

An eco BlueMotion version of this is available at a premium of £360, which you may recoup in fuel savings and by escaping road tax, although the whole range is exempt in year one anyway.

Take Up is the entry spec, but mid-range Move Up (from £8,970) brings air con, electric front windows, remote central locking, easy entry sliding seats, a false floor for the deep boot and much more.

And if you want to tart up then there's High Up (from £10,390) bringing alloys, some leather and lots of electrics, with the limited edition black and white versions (£11,180) looking suspiciously like VW tilting at the lucrative Fiat 500 and Mini customisation target market.



VW Up!

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Image:
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Space:
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Value:
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Running costs:
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Reliability:
★★★★
How green?:
★★★★
Best rival:
Fiat 500

Is VW moving on Up to the new Mini with this little incarnation?



IT'S SMALL WONDER: VW new baby hatchback called the Up! surprisingly offers a large amount for a car of this size and is sure to have a serious impact its tiny rivals

DON'T LIKE

... the name Up!. As with Smart's insistence that the brand should be written all lower case, this is a silly idea, too.

NOT SURE

... the £11,180 top models looks good value at 30 per cent more than an entry car – but it cuts a dash, though, especially in black.

REALLY LIKE

... how VW has created a practical budget car that still upholds its slightly premium badge and is nice to drive, too.

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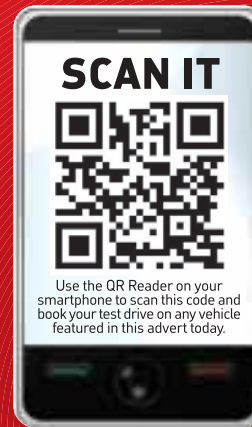
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BMW's ugly duckling reveals beauty when you get inside

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S not as if BMW wasn't told last time, so why does its most affordable and perhaps endearing model still look like it fell out of the ugly tree?

The first generation 1-Series hatchback was an exercise in how not to design a car; it just looked plain awkward, with a saggy, baggy sill line literally being the low point of the execution.

Despite the availability of a five-door version, it wasn't particularly practical either.

Fortunately, its saving graces were typically excellent BMW driving characteristics – being the only rear-wheel drive car in the family hatchback sector – good engines, tax friendliness for company car drivers, and a reputation for being tough and reliable.

And BMW has worked hard on those virtues for the second generation car launched last year, but has again been lazy on the design front.

The new Mark II five-door – three-door sales are met for now by the old model – apes the profile of its predecessor and though it's lost the baggy side-on view, the bluff front end does it no favours.

Get inside this ugly duckling though (priced from £19,375) and the swan emerges.

On the practical side, there's a bigger boot and more space in a cabin that also feels solidly made with quality materials and trim, and alloy highlights.

It's easier to get in and out of the back too; you didn't need to be overweight to catch your backside on the wheel arch as you climbed into the original car.

Mind you, legroom is still a bit cramped compared with some front-wheel drive rivals.

The dashboard layout is logical with lots of spaces and cubbyholes plus the now obligatory aux/USB connections for MP3 players and other gadgets, and you feel that BMW has really thought through what appeals to executives

BMW 116i SPORT: PRICE £21,305

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£115/year
Best rival:	VW Golf

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MAKING ITS MARK:

The BMW 1-Series still lacks the stunning lines of other models from the German car-maker, but the second generation still offers a fantastic drive, with one of the best interiors to found in the sector

or private buyers who have to work long hours out of their car.

With the full array of BMW's eco-friendly EfficientDynamics package – stop-start, battery regeneration through braking, low rolling resistance tyres, etc – on board plus powerful yet energy-efficient petrol and diesel engines, the car will also help their company car tax bills or private budgets.

Considering the prices for the premium and technical product you get, it is quite miraculous too that BMW still makes the car in Germany, despite the savings it could make from producing its smallest model somewhere with lower labour costs.

But the big issue, as ever with BMW, is how does the car drive? Beautifully.

The new 1-Series is wider and feels better planted and sprung than the old car, while retaining the lovely balance of the front engine, long wheelbase and rear-driven wheels.

It's easy to then forget the debatable looks and just enjoy the drive. The test car was a 116i petrol in trendy Sport trim (£21,305).

This is an all-new engine with a six-speed manual gearbox as standard that allows the car to be nimble, sporty and thrifty, averaging around 50mpg – testament to the power of EfficientDynamics – yet still able to hit 62mph in 8.5 seconds.

It also makes a powerful argument against going for diesel; to get equivalent performance and trim from a diesel version, you need the 118d Sport costing £23,270.

Now that will average around 13mpg more than the petrol model, but you will need to do many more miles to make the fuel savings claw back the car's extra £2,000 purchase price.

A caveat to this is that the petrol car will cost £115 a year in road tax, while the diesel will be free in year one and £30 annually after that, and should depreciate more slowly. It's your call...

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



C-Class upset at fleet awards

BMW'S 3-Series is a UK top-10 seller, largely due to company sales, but the unsung yet impressive Mercedes-Benz C-Class landed the prestigious Fleet News awards' Best Premium Car gong instead.

The verdict was aided by a free Elegance to Sport trim upgrade, saving up to £1,700 making the Merc (estate pictured) "the ideal choice for both drivers and fleet managers".



...and Passat scores as well

FLEET News also decided that VW's comparatively unglamorous Passat had hidden virtues – the title made it Best New Company Car overall as well as Best Upper Medium Car winner.

The top award is decided by those at the coal face – fleet operators, particularly mindful of operating costs and resale values. Individual awards are decided by a panel of industry experts.



Volvo turns on to eco drivers

VOLVO won't launch its plug-in diesel hybrid version of the V40 fastback estate until November – the first of its kind.

But the model has already been judged the UK's most highly-anticipated green car, according to TheGreenCarWebsite.co.uk, collecting more than 30 per cent of visitors' votes.

Second place went to the Chevrolet Volt/Vauxhall Ampera with just 11 per cent.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper; 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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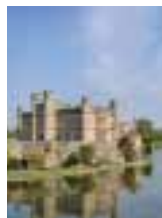
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Sport

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FOOTBALL

The perils of playing the location game as Gills ponder Priestfield future again

Paul Scally might be desperate to move his club to a new stadium, but as **Fred Atkins** writes, moving any side out of its heartland is a major gamble... as other teams have found to their cost

THERE doesn't seem to be a lot of love around for the Priestfield Stadium.

In 2004, a survey by the Observer newspaper named it as the worst ground in the Football League and described it as "the biggest dump in English football".

Rival fans said it: "Makes Middlesbrough look like Monte Carlo" and that as a venue it "never fails to live down to expectations".

One particularly vituperative critic said: "It used to be nothing more than a couple of cowsheds knocked together. The away end has two Portakabins for toilets and the worst catering outside Selhurst Park. The walk from the train station is like walking through the Shangri-La Caravan Park just after closing time."

Urban sophisticate Peter Crouch isn't an admirer either, describing the fans as, "hillbillies in the film Deliverance".

And this week Paul Scally declared there was "no sustainable future" for Gillingham at the venue they've sustained a club at for 109 years.

You can understand why Scally might cast an envious eye over Brighton's new stadium in Falmer, but for every successful relocation, there's a rich man's folly like Darlington's Arena, or Nene Park, which eventually helped bleed the life out of Rushden Town and Irthlingborough Diamonds and is now threatening to do the same to Kettering.

The economic arguments for moving to purpose-built arenas always sound compelling, but are often based on over-optimistic projections of just how many fans a new venue will attract.

And by moving a football club out of the community it grew out of, something is lost that it's impossible to quantify.

Only four senior football grounds have been built in Kent since World War Two.

Two, Dartford's Princes Park and Maidstone's unfinished Gallagher Stadium were built in or near town centres, to replace grounds that should never have been bulldozed in the first place (like Brighton's Goldstone Ground).

The other two illustrate just how badly relocation can backfire.

Sittingbourne's Central Park is the archetypal white elephant, a venue that literally went to the dogs. It may only be a mile out of the town centre, but it might as well have been in a different borough judging by Brickies' attendances over the past few seasons.

Ashford's Homelands is, in terms of facilities, one of the best grounds in Kent, but you can get a train to Lille in the time it'll take you to walk there from Ashford station, while Mike Floate, author of the book Non League Football Grounds of Kent describes it as demonstrating "almost everything that can go wrong" with a football ground.

Priestfield's location by contrast is right in the middle of the most densely populated area of the county. Tens of thousands of people live within walking distance and if Gillingham did move there's no guarantee they would follow them.

At Darlington the word 'unsustainable' is now used to describe the 25,000-seat arena, where barely 1,000 fans watch a floundering team.

Gillingham have historically attracted a hard core of 3,000 fans, even when results are bad. What happens if they move to a 20,000-seat arena the die-hards can't walk to any more?



Pictures: ADY KERRY

OUT WITH THE OLD?: Peter Crouch doesn't like Priestfield and Observer readers aren't keen, but what would Gillingham lose if they move out?

Scally raps out warning over club's future

GILLINGHAM chairman Paul Scally's has written to all 55 members of Medway Council claiming there is no "sustainable future for Gillingham Football Club on its current site" and urging them to reject a scheme to develop Medway Docks because it could ruin the club's chances of building a new stadium at Mill Hill.

Scally says a report by Medway Council into a possible new venue for Gillingham identified land at Medway Docks, owned by Peel Holdings, as "the most appropriate site in Medway by far".

A plan to relocate Gillingham there was drafted, but the scheme was delayed by the recession and a wrangle over the need for "enabling development", specifically a supermarket.

Scally writes that he was incredulous to find revised plans had been drafted for the site in September 2011, which ignored the football club.

He says: "To the utter astonishment of the club, its advisors and others, and without any notification or discussion, the club heard of an exhibition in Medway, at which Peel were presenting to the public their plans to develop the southern area of their site.

"Their plans included all the facilities of the club's proposed scheme, ie. food retail, hotel, conference facility, leisure and so on, but excluded any mention of the stadium."

Gillingham have since agreed an option on a 40-acre site at Mill Hill, but Scally claims that if Peel's revised scheme is allowed to proceed



SCALLY: Appeal to councillors over plans

it could blow the club's plans to build a stadium elsewhere out of the water.

He wrote: "We accept that as the landowner, Peel are at liberty to submit any application that they so wish, but if the Peel scheme as presented gains approval, especially with the food retail element included – the most valuable enabling development available

currently – it would be virtually impossible to construct a new stadium for the football club in Medway as there would be insufficient enabling development funding left available from other facilities."

A clear warning followed: "I wanted to take this opportunity to outline to you, and to all members, the very serious position the club has found itself in, effectively frozen out of a site and scheme which it believed it was making progress on.

"It is essential members realise a new stadium in Medway cannot be developed without firstly a site but also, and more significantly, without appropriate enabling development, ie. residential, food retail, conferencing and hotel use, and bulky goods retail."

Scally claims that while there is interest in a supermarket on the Mill Hill site, it is contingent on the Peel scheme being rejected, writing "there is no market for two such retailers in such close proximity".

And his parting shot to members effectively claimed the club's future was at stake.

"I therefore urge you all, if your wishes are still to ensure your local football club remains as part of the community in Medway, to ensure the Peel planning application is rejected in its current form; at least until members are able to fully consider the alternative proposals that will be submitted on Mill Hill, in conjunction with one of the national developers as partners," he said,

Sport

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MOTORSPORT

New name, same team, as Redstone gun for glory

By Fred Atkins

sports@kosmedia.co.uk

MOTORSPORT fans will be chomping at the bit this weekend as the British Touring Car Championship kicks off at Brands this weekend, ushering in a hectic season for petrol heads at the Kent circuit.

Kent's own Motorbase Performance team will be competing under a new name for the very first time.

Redstone, an IT and communications company, have become the Wrotham-based team's new title sponsor.

The new Redstone Racing team was officially unveiled last week, with Mat Jackson, Liam Griffin and Aron Smith as its drivers.

After narrowly missing out on last year's teams' and drivers' crowns, Redstone are planning their most ambitious tilt at the championship yet, running three Ford Focus STs with Mountune-built Next Generation Touring Car engines.

David Bartrum, the team principal, said: "We're thoroughly looking forward to this season, having learnt a lot about the cars last year and over the winter.

"Our pre-season plans have gone well and we're looking forward to round one with cautious optimism.

"Clearly, other teams have been working hard too with WSR turbo charging its BMWs and Dynamics, 888 & Pirtek moving over to the NGTC regulations.

"I'm sure they will be up to speed very quickly



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

PRIMED: Racers all set for this weekend's BTCC season starter at Brands Hatch

and hopefully it will be a very competitive season that we all enjoy."

Other Kent riders competing include Dartford's Tony Gilham, racing in a Honda Civic for Team HARD.

"There's never a dull moment when the BTCC races and the lay-out there means the crowds can view the whole lap unfold," Gilham said.

"It's going to be a big weekend for my team

and I'm targeting top ten results.

"But I'm setting the goals high because I have a proven car and a very capable bunch of people behind me."

The supporting events will include the Ginetta Junior, Ginetta GT Supercup, Porsche Carrera Cup GB and Renault Clio Cup championships. Among those racing will be Nicolas Hamilton, younger brother of F1 hero Lewis Hamilton.

CRICKET

Ex-Kent skipper follows in father's footsteps at charity

FORMER Kent and England captain Chris Cowdrey has been named as the new president of The Lord's Taverners, the UK's leading youth cricket and disability sports charity.

"I am delighted and honoured to be made The Lord's Taverners president," he said. "I have been a member since my playing days and I'm proud to be part of cricket's favourite charity which does so much for disadvantaged and disabled young people."

Cowdrey is the third former England captain to become president of the organisation since it was established in 1950 in the Tavern at Lord's, after his father, Colin, and Mike Gatting.

"I hope to last a little longer than the previous time I followed in dad's footsteps," Cowdrey quipped, a reference to the 1988 series against the West Indies when he was appointed England captain, injured after a single Test at Headingley and never selected for England again.

Cowdrey succeeds film critic Barry Norman in the role.

Chris and Colin were only the second father-son combination to



COWDREY: Taverners president

captain England, following Frank and George Mann.

He played six Tests for England and was part of David Gower's side that won 2-1 in India in 1984-85.

Nearly all his county cricket was played at Kent and he captained the county from 1986 to 1990, before a brief spell with Glamorgan.

MOTORSPORT

Race ace Williams eyes MG Trophy podium spot

THE MG Trophy season begins next weekend, with Ashford driver David Williams determined to improve on his impressive third place finish in his class last year.

"Testing has been going well and the car feels good," he said.

"I was pleased with last year's result and I am optimistic that I can start to build on that when the season begins at Donington Park on April 8."

Williams, a director of Ashford-based Cascade Print Systems, drove his MG ZR160 to joint-third overall in the C class last season, a more than respectable performance for someone who only began racing in 2006.

A late starter after being advised not to race in his early thirties when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Williams has since been quick to make his mark.

Named as the most improved series driver for 2011, he is likely to be a name to watch as this season gets under way and will be competing locally when the series moves to Westerham track Brands Hatch over the May Bank Holiday weekend.



WILLIAMS: Looking for improvement

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After Brands the series takes in Silverstone, Oulton Park, Thruxton and Snetterton.

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NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

Trouble, but of who's making?

“HOW should you report on anti-social behaviour at football matches?”

During the Thatcher era, football fans were portrayed by the likes of Kelvin McKenzie at the Sun as being one step removed from amoeba, but when the political wind changed stories that would once have had the average Daily Mail reader foaming at the mouth were hushed up, as England mounted doomed bids to host the World Cup.

Significant violence went almost unreported and it was possible to watch the entire 2006 tournament and swallow the myth that England fans were all renaissance men on some kind of cultural exchange, as opposed to topless simpletons showing off their mobs and singing songs about the IRA.

In the past decade the most serious incident I witnessed at a non-league game was a fan throwing a can of lager at a rival goalkeeper during a Kent League Cup final.

It wasn't exactly clever, but it must have been a slow news week at a rival publication because they treated this as front page news and raised the spectre of hooliganism returning.

My report mentioned the incident and said that the game, played on a day when there were no Football League fixtures, had attracted a number of fans from London clubs, some of whom were singing slightly un-PC songs but none of whom were causing trouble.

The following week an anonymous letter appeared in the post, purporting to be from an organisation called Millwall In The County of Kent, claiming this report was a travesty and protesting the Lions' name had been dragged through the mud.

I had a pretty good idea who the author was, knew he wasn't speaking for Millwall officially and was also pretty sure he'd not been at the game, which meant he wasn't in a strong position to pass judgement on something he hadn't actually seen.

I wasn't at Herne Bay last Saturday so I can't comment on the alleged boorishness that took place during their FA Vase semi-final first leg with West Auckland, but most of the reports I read led on the football angle and seemed to keep everything in proportion.

This included the report on Bay's official website, which to the club's credit refused to sweep the incidents under the carpet.

While Herne Bay's manager Simon Halsey understandably wanted to talk about the football, he did say that when you have 2,000 people gathered something's could kick off, particularly if there's alcohol involved.

At the exact moment that game kicked off I was walking past a 'family' pub, where parents were swearing at their pitbulls and letting their own cigarette smoke blown into the faces of their offspring. At a football ground this would constitute anti-social behaviour.

In a Maidstone alehouse it just isn't news.



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